

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية الراية

## Kadar, Shultz meet in Budapest

BUDAPEST (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met Hungarian leader Janos Kadar on Monday for talks expected to focus on economic issues. Mr. Shultz's visit, second stop on a three-nation East European tour, was seen as a largely symbolic reaffirmation of the U.S. policy of differentiating between countries of the region rather than regarding them as part of a monolithic bloc. The talks with Communist Party General Secretary Kadar, Hungary's leader since 1956, followed a sightseeing tour of the historic capital which Mr. Shultz described enthusiastically when the two men met at party headquarters. The tour included an inspection of the revered St. Stephen's Crown that was held by the United States from the end of World War II until 1978. Its return to Hungary by former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance marked a high point in the improvement of U.S.-Hungarian relations. Mr. Shultz is the first secretary of state to come to Budapest since then.

## British TV man missing in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Chris Wenner, a freelance British documentary producer, has been missing for 18 days and is feared kidnapped, a colleague reported on Monday. Wenner, 39, was last seen Nov. 29, when he left the Mayflower Hotel in west Beirut heading for the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in east Lebanon to film a feature film on the hashish trade in Lebanon, said Saeed Ashkar, a soundman for Rund Video News, a French documentary company. He said that he and Wenner were working on a documentary on Lebanon's lucrative hashish trade for Britain's Channel 4 commercial network. "We had a rendezvous to meet somewhere in the Bekaa two days later, on Dec. 1. I went there and was told he had never showed up," said Ashkar, a Lebanese. "I've looked everywhere in the Bekaa and I've been in touch with all parties. They all deny ever seeing him." Ashkar said he and Wenner had been locked up by a militia outside Beirut for 24 hours a month ago and warned off pursuing the hashish story.

Volume 11 Number 3047

AMMAN, TUESDAY DECEMBER 17, 1985, RABIA AL THANI 4, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## King receives Nigerian message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received a message from Nigerian President General Ibrahim Babangida on Sunday. The message was delivered to the King at the Royal Court by Yousef Matima Fouli, a special Nigerian envoy. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

## Moelmann arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — W. German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Juergen Moelmann is expected to arrive in Amman on Tuesday for talks with senior Jordanian officials on the situation in the Mideast and Jordanian-W. German relations. Mr. Moelmann, who is currently on a visit to Saudi Arabia, is scheduled to hold a press conference in Amman Tuesday evening.

## Alia opens talks on European operations

AMMAN (Petra) — Directors of European sales offices at Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, began an annual meeting here on Monday. In an opening speech, Alia Director General Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz stressed the necessity for paying attention to safety in Alia's operations and called on the participants to draw up effective marketing plans.

## Arab social affairs ministers meet

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in the fourth session of the Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers which opens here Tuesday. On the agenda of the three-day meeting are the activities of the Arab Fund for Social Development and ways of implementing a comprehensive social development strategy in the Arab World.

## Jordan, Tunisia sign cultural protocol

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan and Tunisia on Monday signed a three-year cultural cooperation agreement under which books, curricula and educational information will be exchanged. The agreement also calls for the exchange of cultural troupes and scientific and cultural seminars, exhibitions and organizing festivals and strengthening sports cooperation. Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia signed the protocol on behalf of the Jordanian government, and the director of the National Cooperation Department at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, Hammady Ibn Ammar, signed the agreement for Tunisia.

## Cheysson due here on Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Claude Cheysson, a member of the European Community (EC) Commission for North-South relations, is expected to arrive here Friday on a three-day visit to Jordan. Mr. Cheysson, a former defence minister of France, is expected to be received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai for talks on issues of mutual concern.

# Lower House approves draft budget for 1986

•Deputies endorse budget objectives but raise questions over public spending, steadfastness funds, arms and agriculture  
•Rifai replies by explaining long-term goals, socio-economic and defence policies and financial strategy and action

By Larnis K. Andoni  
Salameh B. Ne'matt  
and Rana Sabbagh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament approved the government's 1986 draft budget law with a majority show of hands vote on Monday after a lengthy and sometimes heated debate.

The vote on the JD 923.7 million budget took place after the House listened to speeches by 15 deputies who touched on several topics ranging from the Armed

Forces to the Kingdom's agriculture policy. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai replied to the comments and criticism at the end of the seven-hour session.

The majority of deputies who spoke during the session endorsed the objectives of the 1986 budget, particularly to fulfill the requirements of the Jordanian Armed Forces and strengthen the country's defence capabilities, support the steadfastness of the people in the Israeli occupied territories and strike a balance between expenditure and domestic revenue.

Some members were very critical of the government's big spending, particularly on independent service corporations which have a separate JD 500 million budget, and the country's

growing dependence on Arab and foreign aid and loans, the growing gap between domestic revenues and recurrent expenditure, "negligence" of rural areas and finally the fact that the money allocated for supporting the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territories is not included in the budget.

The deputies called on the government to include in the overall budget the budget of the independent corporations and the funds allocated for supporting the steadfastness of the people under Israeli occupation.

(Continued on page 5)

## Iraqi president holds talks with Gromyko in Moscow

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein conferred with Soviet President Andrei Gromyko on Monday at the start of a visit that diplomats said was apparently aimed at obtaining further Soviet arms supplies for his country.

President Hussein arrived on a previously unannounced working visit, his first to the Soviet Union since December 1978 and his first to a non-Arab state since the Gulf war erupted in September 1980.

He was expected to meet Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Tuesday.

Middle East diplomats said they believed President Hussein had come to press for a major commitment to new arms supplies or to clinch a possible deal outlined in visits in recent months by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and other Iraqi officials.

Moscow restored its arms shipments to Iraq in 1983 after suspending them at the outbreak of the war with Iran. According to reports from the Middle East and Moscow diplomats, shipments were increased sharply last year.

## Bahrain marks National Day with call for peace in Gulf

BAHRAIN (R) — The emir of Bahrain on Monday called for an end to the Iran-Iraq war, expressing hope that current efforts to settle the five-year-old conflict would bear fruit.

In an address marking Bahrain's National Day, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa said: "We repeat our calls for an end to this bloody conflict... hoping efforts by Gulf states... will succeed in exploiting Iraq's desire for peace."

## King congratulates Bahrain leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday sent a congratulatory cable to the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, on the occasion of Bahrain's National Day.

In his cable, King Hussein congratulated the Bahraini leader and wished him every success and good health and the Bahraini people further progress and prosperity.

His call coincided with a spate of fresh fighting and followed a bid by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to bring the combatants to the negotiating table.

The six — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — agreed last month to revive contacts with Tehran and Baghdad.

An envoy has visited Iraq but has yet to go to Iran.

Sheikh Isa appealed anew for Arab solidarity.

Though it is bound to Iraq by a 1972 treaty of friendship the Soviet Union maintains a position of public neutrality towards the Gulf conflict.

Diplomats said President Hussein was likely to press the Kremlin to modify its attitude to Syria's backing for Iran in the Gulf fighting.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said President Hussein was on a "friendly working visit." It did not provide any details of his schedule.

President Hussein received a top-level welcome at the airport from President Gromyko and Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze. TASS said.

Baghdad Radio said Monday it was a visit of "work and cordiality," adding that the Iraqi leader was accompanied by member of the Revolutionary Command Council Taha Yassin Ramadan.

Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and Minister of State for Military Affairs Major General Abdul Jabbar Shinsheh.

President Hussein is the first Arab head of state to visit Moscow

since last month's summit meeting between Mr. Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

In his latest comments on Iraqi-Soviet relations, published in the Paris-based Arabic magazine Al Watan Al Arabi, President Hussein described Moscow as "an old friend for the Arabs."

"According to our analysis of the current Arab and international situation we see that the Arabs must always be keen to be friends with the Soviets," he said.

Soviet Ambassador to Iraq Victor Minin met President Hussein four times this summer, and Iraq's media said messages between Mr. Gorbachev and the president were exchanged.

Foreign Minister Aziz visited Moscow in March this year for talks reported to have centred on the war.

Oil Minister Qasem Ahmad Taqi was there last month for talks on joint oil projects.

President Hussein's visit coincides with an upsurge in Gulf war fighting and reports that Iran plans a fresh ground offensive.

## Karami orders militiamen to leave residential areas

BEIRUT (AP) — Rightist and leftist militiamen clashed in and around Beirut for the fourth day on Monday as Prime Minister Rashid Karami cracked down on unruly militias in the capital's western sector.

Police said units of the Lebanese army duelled with militiamen of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) around in Al-Saida in hills east of Beirut.

Other army positions in the encircled hilltop garrison of Souq Al Gharb, which dominates key mountain roads were raked by PSP machinegun fire, police reported.

Fighters of the Shi'ite Amal militia and the mainly Christian "Lebanese Forces" traded mortar fire across Beirut's dividing green line, police said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. Eight people were killed and 37 wounded between Friday and Sunday, by police count.

Mr. Karami on Monday ordered a "military police force" of PSP and Amal militiamen out of all west Beirut's residential districts in a tough new move to reestablish government authority in the mostly Muslim sector.

He told reporters the 300-man force formed last week to help the Lebanese army and police end the militias' lawless rule will redeploy at a beachfront strip in the city's Ramlet Al Baida district.

Mr. Karami made the statement after heading a three-hour meeting of a coordination committee overseeing a Syrian-sponsored security plan to restore law and order in west Beirut.

"It has been decided that the military police force of the militias be redeployed in one single area only," Mr. Karami said.

He said the force would be redeployed in one single area only.

## Renton meets W. Bank leaders

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — British Minister of State at the Foreign Office Timothy Renton discussed recent Middle East peace moves with a delegation of Palestinian leaders from the Israeli-occupied West Bank Sunday night, a British official said Monday.

Mr. Renton, on a familiarisation tour that also took him to Lebanon and Syria, was to leave on Monday following a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The official at Britain's East Jerusalem consulate told Reuters that Mr. Renton discussed prospects for peace and conditions in the West Bank.

He said it was routine for visiting British officials to meet West Bank leaders.

Among the Palestinians who attended the session at the consulate were Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, newspaper editors Hanna Seniora and Mahmud Abu Zafar, former Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natche and Hikmat Al Masri of Nablus.

Mr. Freij said they also discussed Britain's cancellation two months ago of a planned meeting in London between two Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

"What was done was done. We hope for another meeting soon," Mr. Freij said.

## Israeli warning

The West Bank leaders who met Mr. Renton were expected to travel to the East Bank on Monday to meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat but the Israeli occupation authorities barred them from travelling in a delegation.

The Israelis also warned them that if they met Mr. Arafat they would "be in trouble," an Israeli spokesman said Sunday.

Following the warning, the delegation cancelled its planned visit to the East Bank to meet with Mr. Arafat. "We decided to stay at home," said Mr. Seniora.

The nine Palestinian leaders said they sought to persuade Mr. Arafat that he should "conditionally accept" U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

"They don't want this delegation to go. We understand from this that they don't want us to make progress toward peace. I really feel unhappy about the situation," Mr. Seniora said in a telephone interview.

The Israeli spokesman reiterated Israeli policy prohibiting meetings with "hostile elements" such as the PLO.

The spokesman said there were no restrictions on the Palestinians travelling to the East Bank.

## Spanish king, queen begin Oman visit

MUSCAT (Agencies) — King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain arrived here on Monday after an overnight visit to Amman as guests of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia are here on a three-day official visit to Oman at the invitation of Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id. Sultan Qaboos received them upon arrival here on Monday.

The Spanish king and queen were the guests of honour at a dinner hosted by King Hussein and Queen Noor Sunday night.

Upon their departure from Amman, King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia were seen off by King Hussein and Queen Noor and members of the royal family.

Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akef Al Fayed, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn



King Juan Carlos, accompanied by His Majesty King Hussein, inspects a guard of honour mounted upon his departure after a one-day visit to Jordan on Monday (Petra photo)

Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, cabinet members, dean of the diplomatic corps in Jordan, the Spanish ambassador to Jordan and a number of high-ranking civil and military officials.

As his aircraft was leaving Jordanian airspace, King Juan Carlos sent a cable to King Hussein expressing his gratitude and appreciation for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to him and Queen Sofia during their visit to Jordan.

## Crown Prince receives Waldheim, Kreisky

VIENNA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who arrived here on Sunday on a working visit, received at his residence on Monday former U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

On Sunday Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger hosted a dinner in honour of Prince Hassan. The banquet was attended by members of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues which is co-chaired by Prince Hassan, and senior officials of the Austrian government.

Earlier, Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz also hosted a lunch Sunday in honour of the Crown Prince and it was attended by senior Austrian state officials.

Prince Hassan and the Austrian foreign minister held talks on topics which concern Jordan and Austria. Prince Hassan also briefed Mr. Gratz on the situation in the Middle East in general and the occupied Arab territories in particular.

The independent commission, co-chaired by Prince Hassan and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, began its sessions here Saturday to discuss a number of issues which concern humanity in general and the international community in particular such as drought, hunger, illiteracy and natural and man-made disasters as well as refugees and youths issues in general.

The commission was established in the summer of 1983 under the chairmanship of Prince Hassan and Prince Aga Khan upon a proposal submitted by Prince Hassan to the U.N. General Assembly in 1981. In that proposal, the Crown Prince called for setting up a new international human system to handle major issues threatening humanity. The U.N. secretary general issued a comprehensive report on the

commission's work in which he hailed its efforts in confronting issues facing the world such as hunger, drought, desertification and homeless refugees.

The U.N. General Assembly entrusted the independent commission with studying these problems and highlighting them before the international community and concerned governments.

The commission comprises 26 prominent world figures who represent the various geographical regions of the world among which are Prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali, former Senegalese President Leopold Senghor, former Tanzanian Premier Salim Salim, former Indian Vice-President Mohammad Hidayatulla, former U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara and former British Foreign Secretary David Owen.

## Syria scoffs at 'Israeli threats'; Rabin plays down SA deployment

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria said Monday it would not be intimidated by "renewed military threats" from Israel in the wake of disclosures that the Syrians have moved up aircraft missiles to their border. Israeli leaders appeared to be playing down the affair and said they did not want to trigger a conflict.

The Syrian comments followed a statement on Sunday by Israel's army chief, General Moshe Levy, that Syria had moved anti-aircraft missiles to its border, posing a threat to Israeli flights over Lebanon.

Levy said the missiles were moved in after Israeli reconnaissance planes shot down two Syrian MiGs on Nov. 19.

"The Israeli enemy has renewed its military threats against Syria under false pretences," Baath, organ of the ruling Baath Arab Socialist Party, said.

"Again we say threats will never intimidate us... and we are not alone in the confrontation battle," it said.

The daily Tishrin said threats by Israel showed it was continuing a policy of aggression in Lebanon and against the Arab people, "considering it as a legal right, while it sees Arab retaliation as a threat to its own security."

In Beirut, Lebanon's Education Minister Salim Hoss told Reuters Israeli statements "strengthen our concern that Israel might stage fresh attacks against Lebanon and its people."

Mr. Hoss said Lebanon was alarmed by the daily intrusion of Israeli jets into its airspace and by a bid in the U.S. Congress to end Washington's \$18-million contribution to U.N. peacekeeping forces in South Lebanon.

Beirut's Ash Shaq daily said Israel and the United States were planning to attack the Syrian missile batteries to lure Syria into a major showdown.

The newspaper's political editor also said there was an "American-Israeli plan to attack the Syrian army in Lebanon as an attempt to draw Damascus into an all-out military confrontation."

The Syrian party paper Al Baath said: "Those who heat the (Continued on page 5)

## Wu pledges support for Arabs in confronting Israel

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian said on Monday Peking supported the Syrian and Palestinian people in confronting "aggressive" Israeli expansion.

Mr. Wu told reporters on arrival from Amman he hoped during his visit, the first by a Chinese foreign minister to Damascus in 20 years, to exchange views on boosting Sino-Syrian ties.

"We and you form one front... China has always backed the just struggle of the Syrian and Palestine peoples for national independence and sovereignty and in confronting aggressive Israeli expansion," he said.

Mr. Wu was to meet on Monday with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a and is scheduled to see Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasm on Tuesday.

Chinese sources said his talks would include Middle East issues and the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Wu has already visited Iraq and Jordan as part of a Middle East tour that will also take him to Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Wu told reporters at a news conference in Amman on Sunday that China would not establish diplomatic relations with Israel as

long as that country maintained an "aggressive and expansionist" policy.

He also denied reports that China was cooperating with Israel in business and military fields, calling the claims "groundless."

In talks with His Majesty King Hussein and other Jordanian officials, Mr. Wu reaffirmed China's support for an international conference on Middle East peace and the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

On his way from Amman to Damascus on Monday, Mr. Wu visited the ancient city of Jerash.

Speaking at the Ramtha border post to Syria, the Chinese minister paid tribute to the important role played by King Hussein aimed at finding a just and durable peace in the Middle East. Mr. Wu said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that China supports the King's call for convening an international conference under United Nations auspices.

"The King has briefed me in detail on the latest developments in the area and China deeply appreciates Jordan's great endeavours to bring about peace in the region," the minister said.

The Chinese minister was seen off at Ramtha by the foreign ministry's secretary general.

## Israeli siege continues in part of Nablus

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli occupation authorities on Monday maintained a curfew in parts of the occupied West Bank town of Nablus, the Palestinian News Agency, WAFSA, said.

The curfew was imposed after an Israeli soldier was stabbed in the town on Saturday. The soldier was wounded in the attack.

In Ramallah, another town in the occupied West Bank, an Israeli military court has sentenced Mohammed Ahmad Assad to 10 years in prison and Islam Ratrouf to 14 months in prison for stoning Israeli vehicles, WAFSA reported.

The court also sentenced three other citizens from Arrub camp, near Hebron, to three months in prison and imposed heavy fines.

In Nablus, the Israeli authorities arrested Mr. Mohammad Sawalha, an instructor of English at Al Najah University. The arrest brought to 21 the number of instructors and students arrested from the university, WAFSA said.

In another dispatch, WAFSA said Arab village councils were preparing for a demonstration in protest against the financial crisis they were facing as a result of the discrimination by the Israeli government against them.

Chairmen of the village councils threatened to extend their action.

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## Home news

# Deputies urge more support for Arabs in the occupied territories, call for political, social and economic reforms

The following are major excerpts from speeches delivered by a number of deputies during yesterday's Lower House of Parliament debate on the 1986 draft budget. Excerpts from the remainder of the deputies' speeches will appear in tomorrow's issue of the Jordan Times.



Tahseen Abdul Ra'ouf Al Faris (Nablus)

The procedure followed in managing funds of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the occupied territories is not balanced between the productive and service sectors. This procedure is dominated by personal, rather than collective, trends in financing projects and facing economic and social problems in the occupied territories. Citizens should be involved in planning, through their representatives, and in drawing up development policies, although we value government efforts towards establishing a development plan for the occupied territories.

In the absence of national authority in the occupied territories, there is a pressing need to support, strengthen and finance national institutions like universities, municipal councils and various associations.

In this respect, the so-called "programme for the National Welfare of Graduates," which was created by the joint committee for steadfastness and which pays the unemployed graduate a nominal salary for a whole year, is a big waste for both the graduate's dignity and productivity. There are over 15,000 new graduates who have not been able to find jobs, and we think it necessary to correct this programme or find an alternative to it.

I demand that there be one programme to combat unemployment for both the East and West Banks and that the government enlist its most successful agencies to run the affairs of the West Bank.

West Bankers look to His Majesty the King and his government to review those measures which adversely affect them, like travel and residence restrictions and other agricultural, industrial and trade problems.

Furthermore, I hope that the government will increase its financial support for the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) which shoulders heavy responsibilities towards our people in the occupied territories and here in the East Bank. Cooperative societies throughout governorates and districts have played a great role in serving the citizen and in supporting our steadfastness and they are the most able body to manage development programmes in the occupied territories. We hope that the government will strengthen its financial support to the JCO. Nearly 20 per cent of all West Bank residents are members of the JCO which has 482 registered societies as members in the occupied territories.

This country has tasted prosperity for a period of seven full years. Now we are passing through a period of seven lean years. May I ask what previous governments did in the seven prosperous years to prepare for these difficult times, other than owning big cars and building palaces instead of establishing projects and generating employment? This government is working day and night to improve things, but no matter what it can achieve in this short period of time, it cannot turn the clock back except with the cooperation of capitalists.

I often demanded that complicated laws, which do not relate to the people, be amended in order to avoid bureaucracy and routine, but nobody has listened. I therefore suggest that the prime minister order the amendment of these laws to facilitate the people's interaction with their government.

I also proposed the dissolution of the Ministry for Occupied Territories Affairs and the inclusion of its various departments in the Ministry of Interior. I did this because the laws that govern the West Bank are Jordanian laws, except for some which are dictated illegally by the occupation authorities, and since the West Bank is an integral part of Jordan, then there becomes no need for the Ministry for Occupied Territories Affairs.

As for Gaza, I propose that Gazans be treated just like West Bankers, so that we build confidence between them and the Kingdom. They should feel that Jordan is looking after them and that it will not abandon them because we all have the same destiny.

When looking at the budget, I see some fantastic figures, but did not find allocations in it for an emergency fund for the West Bank. I hope that next year funds of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee will be included in the budget or its annex.



Suleiman Al Qudrah (Ajloun)

This is the biggest budget the country has known and it has added importance since 1986 is the first year in the five-year plan and hence many of the features and objectives are reflected in the draft budget.

I ask the government to curb urban migration by making this an objective of all its economic, social and construction plans. These plans should aim at providing basic needs and public services to rural areas and at securing jobs for workers in these areas. There is no doubt that the government has made strides in this area but the migration has not stopped. People in rural areas complain that there are only a few industrial and productive projects in these areas and therefore the government is called upon to encourage establishing industries and big projects in these areas.

The protection of public funds is the duty of every government. Therefore, the government is called upon to combat all kinds of deviations and exploitations by applying strict measures and supervision on the construction of public buildings. The objectives of the budget must be to support the Armed Forces and I support the Financial Committee in backing the government's goal of strengthening our defence capabilities and to continue the People's Army programme.

Other objectives include the achievement of Arab economic integration and combating Israeli efforts to Judaize the occupied Arab territories both of which would benefit the country if properly implemented.

I support the government's objective of encouraging individual initiative and fair competition in order to give the private sector a larger role in serving the country's economy in cooperation with the public sector. There are, however, important service corporations run by the public sector which should not be owned by private investors because while the public sector seeks to serve the public, the private sector is mainly interested in making profits.

The government should provide protection to infant industries but this protection should only apply to high-standard domestic products and should not encourage monopolisation of commodities by owners of national industries. Furthermore, good quality products deserve protection but bad quality and over priced goods should not be protected by the government. The government is called upon to apply its protective measures only to the products which deserve this protection.

In my opinion democratic life cannot be complete without the formation of national parties which base their principles and goals on the Jordanian constitution. Therefore, I call on the government, along with others who support the idea, to reassess the position on allowing the formation of national Jordanian parties.

I conclude my speech by reminding you of the district of Ajloun

which I am honoured to represent. We in Ajloun hope that this vast district will become a major tourist area. I also remind you of this district's request for a public hospital. We were surprised that in this year's budget a modest sum of JD 350,000 was allocated for modernising hospitals in Tafieh and Ajloun. I would have preferred to hear that construction work on the hospital will start on the allocated land but I hope that the prime minister will work on taking a practical step this year towards achieving this goal. I also reiterate my previous suggestion that the government upgrade Ajloun's status to that of a governorate.



Riyadh Nawaleh (Karak Governorate)

I call on the government to heed resolutions passed by parliament last year and to take into consideration recommendations pertaining to making the economy productive by cutting back on consumption and investigating the reasons behind losses incurred by some large companies and private or public corporations in the country.

I also request that the budget of independent institutions be included in the overall budget and suggest raising the efficiency of the Audit Bureau and increasing support to the people in the Israeli occupied territories.

In the budget statement the minister of finance referred to a new five-year plan. Where is this plan, who formulated it and who approved it? The development expenditure as stated in the budget is financed by international institutions which are not interested in development plans. This expenditure does not aim to finance developmental projects but at repaying previous debts or supporting the losses incurred by private and public corporations.

I also question the five per cent rate of growth referred to by the minister. How could there be such growth when we are in an economic recession, facing increasing unemployment and having to deal with the continuing losses by many local companies.

The government said that it aims at striking a balance between recurrent expenditure and local revenues but domestic revenues cover only 80 per cent of recurrent expenditure although it was supposed to be 88 per cent in this year's budget. We do not know how the government is going to solve this problem without raising taxes. It has been easy regarding collecting from the wealthy while placing the burden of income taxes on low income groups.

The budget statement said that the first objective is to strengthen the armed forces. However, we ask the government to be open and frank with us. "Does the government plan to restore the Arab territories by force or does plan to achieve its goals through the so-called peace efforts and reconciliation with the enemy? The answer is very important because it would determine the extent of the needs of our armed forces for weapons and whether these requirements are financed by domestic revenues, Arab aid or foreign loans.

The Jordanian constitution stipulates that no money can be spent without a law to regulate the spending. How then can the budget statement say that non-recurrent expenditures will be covered and financed by a special fund which was not included in the budget statement?

The government has allocated JD 11 million to support farmers but government subsidies for wheat this year have reached JD 13 million and in 1985 the country has imported 425,000 tonnes of wheat which cost JD 29 million and was sold for JD 16 million. The government seems to have supported American wheat instead of our local product.

The statement also said that there was a considerable increase in the percentage of our exports. What exports of fertilisers?

The budget statement also said that the government has decided to incorporate the Urban Development Department into the Housing Corporation so that it could extend its services to all areas in the country. What are the urban development projects that have been implemented? We believe that the department is not

more than a department for employment. Moreover, all of its projects to date have concentrated on transforming the Palestinian refugee camps in Marj and Ruseifa into permanent settlements and we fear that department will do the same thing in Souf and Hason.

There is also talk about rejuvenating and encouraging tourism but Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, which is supposed to bear this responsibility, has succeeded in encouraging Jordanians to make tours abroad and has actually won an award from Spain for flying many Jordanians there as tourists. Furthermore, Alia's commercials urge Jordanians to shop in London every Saturday and in Singapore every Sunday. If we really want to encourage tourism in Jordan the government has to point Alia in the right direction.

JD 8 million has been allocated for shares in different corporations. What are these companies? Are they new ones or is this money designed to cover the losses incurred by some of the existing companies?

JD 6 million has been allocated so that the government can buy shares in "other companies." So we have two kinds of companies and there are indications that the "other companies" include the glass company, Ma'in Spa and the first kind probably includes the wood and fertiliser companies.

We note a 30 per cent increase in the estimation of foreign aid and a 218 per cent increase in the interest and instalments of refundable loans which contravene the objective of achieving self-sufficiency.

The budget also indicates a 12 per cent increase in the volume of expenditure which raises questions on the supposed austerity policies and the government objective to achieve economic independence. Is the objective to increase dependence on aid and loans and consequently to weaken Jordan's political and national stance?

The JD 37.6 million deficit could grow and the only cure would be more borrowing and the country will be swamped with foreign debts which would threaten the country's economic and political security. Is the government aware of the dangerous implications that result from becoming swamped with foreign debts and what is the government going to do to repay these debts, especially since the government is spending on non-productive projects?

The Jordan Valley Authority has become a drain on public money. Every year JD 30 to JD 50 million are allocated for the JVA but there are no tangible results. Is there an end to the JVA's imagination in creating new projects such as building chalets for Amman's traders or buying boats for tourists to the Dead Sea? Is not there an end to this waste and squandering of money?

The Jordanian constitution stipulates that spending should be regulated through the budget law. But a re-estimation of this year's and 1984 figures indicate that the Jordanian government spends as it wants without referring to a law. For example, the re-estimated recurrent expenditure in 1984 exceeded the original estimation by JD 33 million (7.2 per cent) and in 1985 it exceeded the original estimation by JD 55 million (11.1 per cent). Are the estimated numbers just initial estimations which could be changed?

The budget statement did not tackle the major issue of tax policies. What are the objectives of the tax policies and will there be new taxes? Has the slogan of the government become to redistribute income among the rich?

Political reality should play a major role in defining our economic objectives and therefore we call for democratic freedom, developing the parliamentary process and allowing the formation of political parties and blocks.



Sheikh Abdul Baqqi Gammo (Amman Governorate)

I urge all Arab governments to support Iraq in its war against the Iranian aggressors since the majority of governments have been watching the five-year old war without any positive intervention.

I also call on all Jordanians who have secret bank accounts abroad to transfer their money to Jordanian banks since the interest on their money has benefitted the Israelis.

## Forum hosts conference on social development

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day conference on social development in the Arab World opened Monday at the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) premises in Amman. The conference is organised by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in cooperation with the University of Jordan and the Conrad Adenauer Institute.

Addressing the participants, GUVS Chairman Abdullah Al Khatib stressed the importance of social development and called for exerting every possible effort to achieve balance in development rather than directing special attention to economic development.

Dr. Khatib said that those interested in social development have failed to make the public fully aware of the importance of social development and have neglected to convince policy makers of the benefits of social welfare and its impact on development and the population for whom it was originally designed.

"If we have the conviction that economic development is a pressing national necessity, then we should also have the conviction that social development is a national eventuality, because it is the basis for changing and restructuring the whole society towards overall improvement," Dr. Khatib said. Consequently, the relationship between these two kinds of development means that both should be integrated within a national framework involving public participation and both playing a sound role in building society, he continued.

Dr. Khatib added that the public have a genuine interest in the events and changes which take place in their society and that their interaction with these events thereby provides a necessary protection for society.

Dr. Khatib also said that the broad base of voluntary societies and social bodies on both banks of Jordan have tackled only one aspect of the social development process in that they have dealt with the problems of underprivileged people. As the underprivileged constitute 15-20 per cent of the total population, the social development of the majority is not being dealt with, he noted.

Speaking about the available resources for social workers, Dr. Khatib said that they are very limited but that they are being utilised in the best manner.

## Social security coverage reflects national progress, Farhan says

AMMAN (Petra) — Social Security Corporation Director General Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan Monday said that national progress or individual achievement is no longer measured by the volume of national income and per capita income nor by the stage a society reaches in its attempts to reach to the moon but rather it is measured by the rights of a citizen according to social legislation and by the protection and security provided by this legislation.

Dr. Farhan was addressing the opening session of the first Arab conference for the directors of social security corporations which started here Monday.

Dr. Farhan, who deputised for Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalid Al Haj Hassan, added that the conference is important because it is being held for the first time by officers of social security and consequently, whatever results the conference might come up with will serve as a basic foundation for joint cooperation.

Dr. Farhan said that the country's constitution and legislation provide for freedom and dignity for all citizens and the means to translate this right into a reality. Dr. Farhan also reviewed Jordan's achievements in the field of social security which started in 1941 when the government passed the military retirement law. This law marked the start of an organised plan for enacting social legislation

to cope with the economic and social development in the country at that time, Dr. Farhan added.

He added that the Israeli aggression in 1967 and its complications and effects on the economic institutions in the West Bank and the eviction of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from the West Bank precluded the enactment of social security legislation during that period. However, he continued, Jordan did not give up but pursued its efforts in this direction and implemented two five-year development plans which paved the way for enacting social security legislation which came into force in 1980.

The Jordanian social security law now covers 330,000 workers and employees and does not discriminate between Jordanians and non-Jordanians, giving all people in Jordan an opportunity to be covered by social security, Dr. Farhan said.

The conference is in implementation of a recommendation issued by the fifth Arab seminar on social security, held in Morocco in April 1984.

## W. Germany to assist RSS with tests on solar heating

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Abdullah Al Nsour and West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels Monday signed an exchange of memoranda under which West Germany will provide the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) with equipment and machines for testing solar heaters. The new equipment, which is in addition to West Germany's technical assistance to the RSS, will be used for developing and testing solar heaters to check their suitability for use and conformity with the standards and specifications in force.

The new equipment will provide test results within three days whereas other methods of testing take between one and three months to give results.

## Ministry holds course to explain contents, objectives of five-year plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib said Monday that information in Jordan endeavours to be an aware and developmental process.

This concept, he said, is derived from our conviction that an aware citizen is one who is able to interact and respond to his environment and circumstances and one who is always seeking to achieve better conditions in life.

Deputising for Mr. Khatib, Ministry of Information Under Secretary Michael Hamarneh inaugurated a six-day course on educating people about the five-year development plan (1986-1990).

The course is organised by the Ministry of Information's Developmental, Information, and Communications Department in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the United Nations Centre for Population Activities.

The course is the first of its kind in terms of contents and timing. Mr. Khatib said in the speech, which was delivered on his behalf by Mr. Hamarneh. The course derives its importance from the fact that Jordan is at the beginning of a new five-year development plan with goals and objectives that in some respects differ from previous plans, Mr. Khatib said.

He also stressed the importance of understanding the primary implications of the plan which will consolidate the plans and efforts for achieving a better life for Jordanian society.

In the speech, Mr. Khatib pointed out that the media, all ministries and government departments should be involved in explaining the plan and its objectives and that they should help establish a strong relationship between the public and the plan, based on understanding and objective interaction.

Mr. Khatib added that training is at the top of the ministry's priorities because of the ministry's belief that information deals with all major political, social, economic and cultural events.

Director of the Developmental Training and Information Department Issa Al Jahmani said that the six-day course includes lectures and films about the various components of the development plan.

Taking part in the course are 22 representatives from various ministries, government departments and institutions.

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THE HOUSING BANK



# 'Our children are innocent'

By Rami G. Khouri

I HAVE been trying recently to inform myself about the health status of children in Jordan and other Arab countries, and would like to share with you both heartening and distressing aspects of the status of our children.

Why, you might ask, should journalists take the time to look into a subject that is already being studied and treated by able specialists in the government, Jordanian and international voluntary agencies, and international organisations such as UNICEF, WHO, UNRWA, UNHCR and others?

The answer, I would suggest, is that the status and welfare of children are somehow different from trends in the field of agriculture, industry, education or the many other social and economic sectors of society. The manner in which we permit our children to be born, to live, to grow, to be maimed, or to die as infants and children, may well be an appropriate measure of our most fundamental human nature and character.

Let us first review a few facts, and then consider what journalists — and taxi drivers, construction workers, lawyers, teachers, bakers, soldiers, aviators and the rest of us — can do for our children.

On a regional basis, the most reliable recent statistics compiled by UNICEF indicate that 3,000 children die unnecessarily EVERY DAY in the Middle East/North Africa region (which includes Turkey and Iran, along

with the Arab states). In other words, about 1.1 million children die every year in our region. Most of those deaths are "unnecessary" because they could be prevented by inexpensive and easily applied immunization or oral rehydration techniques.

On a global scale, the dimension of the loss of infants is even more stark. About four million children die every year around the world from diarrhoea-induced dehydration; such dehydration is easily preventable by a simple salt and sugar solution that costs a few cents, and can be administered by parents in the home. In the past year, about half a million children were saved from death by the application of this oral rehydration therapy. In our part of the world, an average of 1,400 children die EVERY DAY from diarrhoea, for a total of half a million children a year.

About 15 million children die every year around the world. It is now thought that if all children were immunized against the six main child diseases before the age of one, half those 15 million child deaths could be prevented. In the developing states, five million children die every year, and five million others are physically or mentally handicapped for life, by any of six vaccine-preventable diseases: diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, measles, polio and tuberculosis.

The statistics are astounding.

The scale of the global infant mortality and disability is chilling. The grief and emotional torment of a family that buries its dead children is incalculable, and perhaps even incomprehensible to those of us fortunate enough to avoid the experience.

But behind the sheer numbers and the cycle of hope-and-grief is the numbing reality of societies that acquiesce in the large-scale death of their children. The death of an infant is already tragic; a death that could easily have been prevented is doubly grievous.

The challenge before the world today is not to devise medicines or remedies to help prevent the deaths and disablement of millions of children. We have the medicines. We know how to prevent the killer diseases. In the laboratory, and the test tubes, we have already won.

In the homes of the world's children, however, we have only just begun to fight. It is perhaps ironic that the most difficult aspect of the drive to prevent child deaths from immunizable diseases has been how to inform parents about the value and availability of immunization, oral rehydration therapy or other simple child health and survival techniques.

The experience of recent years suggests that if a country wishes to raise the immunization coverage of its children, it will be most successful if it can mobilise the participation and enthusiasm of all sectors of society, including tea-

chers, religious figures, political leaders, sports personalities, leaders in the private sector and the like. The awareness of the problem has to be sparked throughout every corner of the land, and people have to become aware of the remedies in a similar manner. This is where the role of all of us outside the health care infrastructure becomes important, perhaps even crucial. What can we do?

I was privileged last month to attend the inaugural meeting of the International Club of Journalists for Children's Rights, which has been established thanks to the forceful efforts of a magical Italian named Arnaldo Farina. His perseverance brought together in Venice 78 journalists and media-related people from 64 countries, all of whom joined the club in their individual capacities. Among the founding members were journalists from several Arab states, including Jordan, the Yemen Arab Republic, Algeria, Sudan, Somalia, and the United Arab Emirates.

We formed the club because we had come to realise that in our positions as journalists, we had a disproportionately important role to play in raising the consciousness of our societies about why, and how, our children die — and about what all of us could do to lower the rate of child mortality and disablement. We have made a commitment, as individuals, to use our

access to the media to raise the relevant issues, and discuss the appropriate remedies.

It is relevant to note what Mr. Farina, the president of the International Club of Journalists for Children's Rights, said at the Venice meeting: "Our children are innocent of the evil of the world. Our children did not have a say in whether or not they were born. But when a child is born, it is born with the right to love, good health and a future."

There are many aspects of the child survival and development revolution taking place around the world. There are successes to be related, challenges to be faced, and ironies to be comprehended.

Most of all, I think, we have to come face-to-face with the fact that we, the people of this world, spend hundreds of billions of dollars a year on armaments. The cost of immunizing all the world's children (at about \$5 per child) and saving millions of infant lives, is approximately \$500 million a year — or slightly less than the cost of three advanced jet fighter planes.

The task at hand is not to assign blame, or ascribe responsibility for the children who die or are permanently disabled. This is not an exercise in morality, or redemption. Rather, the challenge that confronts all of us, whatever our position in society, is simply to re-examine the impulses of our very humanity, by re-affirming the rights of our children to good health, love, and a reasonable chance to look forward to a future as part of that humanity.

In the battle to save our children, money is not necessarily the key, and poverty is not necessarily an obstacle. Some of the wealthiest countries (including several Middle Eastern states) have high child mortality rates; and some of the poorest (such as Sri Lanka, Cuba or El Salvador) have high sanitary standards and correspondingly long life expectancies.

The key to the welfare of our children is widespread awareness by the entire community, and active participation by all members of the community. The health care workers cannot do the job on their own. In this respect, our role as journalists can be pivotal. The formation of the International Club of Journalists for Children's Rights is but a small testament to the community-wide effort that must be exerted to save millions of children from preventable death and disability.

In the Arab World, we have specific priorities that have to be tackled within the context of our own history, contemporary problems, resources and ethical heritage. In future articles and columns, I will examine some of these matters in greater depth, as will my colleagues from other Arab states who have committed themselves to the same work.

## Change to the worse

CHANGE is the constant theme of Nature; so much so in fact that the ancient Greek philosopher Tales argued, as everything appeared to him in a flux, that change constituted the essence of beings (things). One may not exercise one's wits in needless philosophical analysis to understand the phenomenon of change as one's own daily experiences bear evidence to many changes in life. Not only do material things get changed, transformed and even sublimated in the vast and inexorable process of evolution through the millennia, but also man's mental attitudes and psychological ethos, his social behaviour and political ideologies and even his moral and spiritual values undergo deep changes and modifications under the relentless impact of ever-widening frontiers of scientific knowledge, inventions, human development and progress.

The Arab-Israeli conflict is now decades old, but the basic Israeli policy of denying the Palestinians their rights in their homeland has not at all changed. Israel's obdurate position against the Palestinians' right to self-determination and statehood, on at least part of their own land, remains the major stumbling block for the recent peace process to make any headway.

Sporadic rumblings within the rank and file of the Israeli society are apparent, though not yet meaningfully crystallised, pointing to an inclination to talk to the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinians. It is well to remember that, if at all a window of opportunity is even half open for Middle East peace, it is due to the fact that today there are people who are willing to talk to each other on both sides provided that a solid and productive base for negotiations can be mutually agreed to.

Talk is the only alternative to war, and for their part, the PLO and the Palestinians generally have shown readiness to talk with the Israelis. It becomes incumbent on the Israeli leadership, therefore, to seize the opportunity in forging ahead a healthy relationship with the Palestinian people and together with them strive to usher in a new era of reconciliation, peace and security which both sides so badly need and aspire to. You would think that is exactly what the Israelis ought to do, but unfortunately this is not the case.

There are people in Israel today, if not the majority of them, who are ready to wreck the very idea of communication between the two sides. Take, for example, people like the Israeli Justice Minister, Moshe Nissim, and Knesset Law Committee Chairman Eli Kulas who, among others, have been engaged in a sinister political manoeuvre to activate the 1948 "Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance" with even tougher amendments aimed at illegalising contacts with the PLO as "detrimental to Israeli security and peace."

Progressive Israelis know that such rotten and dangerous thinking can only help to put the clock back by fifty years and drive the Israelis, lock, stock and barrel into such a blind alley as they have never seen before. What is required of the Israeli progressive forces is not only to have an awareness of the dangers posed by such unjust laws towards building better relationship with the Palestinians, but also a positive readiness to muster enough political clout well in advance to pre-empt such nefarious laws taking shape in a country that boasts so much of secular democracy. For, prevention, certainly, is better than cure.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Israeli aggression

THE PLO forces in North Yemen and Sudan have been placed on alert for fear of a Zionist aggression after being warned of this attack by an Arab state. We cannot rule out any Israeli raid on the PLO forces in any Arab country because the Israelis have evil nature and are full of hostility towards the Arab nation. Since its establishment, the PLO has served as a threat to the very existence of the Zionist state and this has prompted the Israelis to make plans for attacking the PLO forces anywhere throughout the Arab World. Once the Israelis achieve their goal they can fear no one in fulfilling their plans to seize the rest of the Palestinian land. The PLO forces have been the target of the Israeli aggression in Palestine, Lebanon, Tunis and in other parts of the Arab World. The Israeli enemy wants to weaken the Arab countries to pave the way for further expansion. The exodus of the Palestinians from Beirut and the scattering of their forces in Arab lands did not deter the Israelis from pursuing their goals and therefore Israeli aggression on Sudan and North Yemen should be expected any time.

### Al Dustour: China's firm support

AT THE end of a successful visit to Jordan, the Chinese foreign minister emphasised his country's firm support for the Palestinian people in their endeavours to regain their legitimate rights in their homeland. The minister described Jordan's call for an international conference to find a solution for the Palestine problem as a positive move supported by China. He said that the Jordanian initiative would lead to the establishment of genuine peace in the region. While the Chinese minister seized the chance of his visit to Jordan to reaffirm his support for the Palestinian rights, he ruled out: any intention on behalf of his country to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. China's opposition to Israel, he said, stems from the fact that Peking cannot condone aggression and the occupation of other country's land.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Expatriates return

IT SEEMS that the time has come for the expatriates to return to their countries and to abandon the oil states in the Gulf. Hundreds of thousands of people who have been employed in the Gulf countries are now returning home after they had discovered that the economic boom has at last come to an end. The Gulf states benefited from the services of those expatriates but not all of the expatriates benefited equally from their stay. Many expatriates sent back their transfers only to be invested in luxury homes which helped to create inflation in their home countries. It is time for the three million expatriates to return to their home countries which need them now more than at any time in the past for development purposes and for real investment.

## Knife attacks scare Israelis in Jerusalem and West Bank

By Bernard Edinger  
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The stabbing of three Israelis in the narrow streets of Jerusalem's old city has turned the clock back towards the time of the Mandelbaum Gate, when Jerusalem was divided into Israeli and Arab sectors.

Separating Jewish west Jerusalem from Arab neighbourhoods to the east, the Mandelbaum Gate, erected in 1948, was torn down after the 1967 six-day war when Israel occupied the whole city.

Three separate stabbings in recent weeks have seen Israelis almost completely disappear from predominantly Arab quarters

while Palestinians employed in west Jerusalem now hurry back home as soon as their daily work ends.

Visitors who knew the bustling "sukks" (markets) of east Jerusalem's old city from several years ago now note that patrolling soldiers and a few black-garbed, ultra-orthodox Jews are virtually the only Israelis about.

The religious Jews come from Mea Shearim, their quarter in west Jerusalem. Cutting straight across areas where the stabbings took place, they head for the Wailing Wall, Jewry's holiest shrine, which is at the opposite end of east Jerusalem.

But most Israelis now reach the wall by going around the old city

or come from a Jewish quarter within the old city walls which can be reached without going into Arab areas.

Foreign tourists seem safe anywhere in the old city.

Israelis, who flocked daily into east Jerusalem by the thousands after 1967, began staying away earlier this year when resistance fighters killed several hikers and courting couples in isolated wooded areas near Jerusalem.

But they became even scarcer after the knife attacks in which all three victims survived.

Two victims were seriously wounded by kitchen knives while the third was stabbed in the face, neck and hands.

Police say they have not caught the attacker or attackers, thought

to be young Palestinian nationalists, possibly acting independently of organised resistance movements.

Resistance attacks long ago cleared such major occupied towns as Nablus, Hebron and Gaza of all Israelis except patrolling troops. knots of Jewish settlers bent on trouble and a few hardy or ill-informed souls.

"Until perhaps a year or so ago, I shopped in east Jerusalem's vegetable market," explained Noah, a young Israeli mother of two.

"When shops were closed in Jewish areas on the Sabbath, we went to the old city where Arab shops were open."

"But now I've stopped going. You feel the Arabs don't like you so, who needs the trouble?" she

said.

"Israelis long ago accepted they might be blown up by a bomb in their own neighbourhood supermarket," said journalist Gil Kessary, a veteran of the pre-state Jewish underground and of several of Israel's subsequent wars.

"But to go into an Arab neighbourhood and end up with a knife between your shoulder blades is a subconscious fear of every Israeli. To avoid it, just don't go," he said.

The use of knives is what seems to have most impressed Israelis. "Guns and bombs we are used to, but knives bring us back to the worst times of 1948," says Yohavet Shayelevich who then fought in the old city as a teenage Jewish girl soldier.

Increased Israeli security measures are now bitterly resented by Palestinians who complain about frequent spot identity checks in the streets.

One east Jerusalem Arab said many of the thousands of West Bankers who travel daily to jobs on construction sites and in hotels in west Jerusalem now rose an hour early to take into account possible delays at police checkpoints.

Jamal, a young Palestinian intellectual, said he stayed away from Jewish areas despite the attraction of more bookshops and better films. "I too know when I'm not wanted and I certainly don't want to be the only Arab around a Jewish area if a bomb goes off."

## Reagan hits blackest period since his 1984 reelection

By Gene Gibbons  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan has suffered the worst domestic political setback of his second term and further embarrassments may lie ahead.

Ironically, fellow Republicans in Congress, who until now were among his staunchest supporters, have helped contribute to his unhappy state.

They were in the forefront last Wednesday when the House of Representatives scuttled the centerpiece of what Reagan termed a "second American revolution" to overhaul the tax system.

By a vote of 223 to 202, the house refused even to consider Reagan's programme for sweeping tax code changes, which he says is necessary to assure continued economic prosperity.

It was one of Reagan's worst defeats on Capitol Hill since he entered office in 1981 — and certainly his blackest period since being reelected by a record landslide in November 1984.

As the White House struggled to revive the president's reform plans, Reagan aides talked openly of retaliating against house Republicans who had revolted against their chief.

Reagan would "neither forget or forgive" when those who deserted him ask for his help in next year's congressional election campaign, one top administration official growled.

But some knowledgeable analysts of Washington politics dismissed the threat as an empty one.

House speaker Thomas O'Neill, who leads the opposition Democrats in Congress, thought he detected the first signs of political weakness in America's most popular president since Dwight Eisenhower.

Noting the tax reform rebellion was led by the House Republican leadership, O'Neill observed: "When does a president become a lame duck? When he loses (control over) the leadership of his own party."

Reagan's troubles on the tax front might foreshadow even bigger problems to come — problems, curiously, that could arise as a result of a White House political victory.

On the same day as his tax reform drive stalled, Congress passed a Republican-sponsored, Reagan-backed bill to eliminate America's \$200 billion deficit by 1991.

The legislation resulted from a groundswell of opinion that the economy will be seriously damaged unless something is done about deficits that have soared despite Reagan's 1980 campaign promise to balance the budget by 1984.

It fixes specific, declining deficit ceilings in each of five budgets, starting with the present one, and requires automatic, across-the-board spending cuts in defence and most domestic programmes if Congress should exceed them.

Republican and Democratic congressmen predict bloody battles in coming months as Reagan fights to preserve his record peacetime military build-up while opposing higher taxes and Congress struggles to protect popular social programmes.

The battles will occur in a supercharged atmosphere, since all 435 house seats and one third of the 100 Senate seats will be at stake in the 1986 elections.

Political experts say Reagan, who is barred by the constitution from running for president again in 1988, will have his powers of persuasion sorely tested when he tries to rally support from legislators dependent on voter support.

He must also contend with some unpleasant arithmetic if he seeks to protect Pentagon riches.

Even if Congress agreed to every civilian budget cut that Reagan has proposed — down to scrapping railway passenger trains — officials say he would still fall short of obeying the new deficit reduction law by \$15 billion and would still have to axe cherished military projects or raise taxes.

## Campaign against UNESCO, M'Bow intensifies

By John Morrison  
Reuter

PARIS — A long-running conflict between management and staff at UNESCO has erupted in a week of crisis which has sharply undermined the authority of director-general Amadou Mahtar M'Bow.

The week of upheaval was described by veteran staff members as a watershed in the U.N. agency's 40-year history. "It's an irreversible change," one employee said.

The climax came on last Friday night when UNESCO Staff Association (STA) president Bruno de Padirac raised his arms in a victory salute to acknowledge the cheers of his members.

In six hours of negotiations, the STA had wrested from M'Bow a promise to set up a joint committee to handle redeployment and redundancies among staff.

The concession came only after a one-day work stoppage and a four-day hunger strike by de Padirac and several supporters.

The crisis was triggered by the imminent prospect of up to 800 job losses, including 350 sackings, as the result of the withdrawal from UNESCO of the United States and Britain.

The U.S. pulled out at the end of last year, alleging political bias

and mismanagement at UNESCO under M'Bow's stewardship, and Britain followed suit this month.

The result was a 30-per-cent cut in the agency's budget for 1986 and 1987.

"We accept that some job losses are inevitable. All we are asking for is a bit of consultation," a staff member said.

M'Bow, a former Senegalese education minister now serving his second seven-year term as the only African to head a major U.N. agency, has frequently been criticised by Western member governments for his handling of staff matters.

One veteran Western ambassador at UNESCO used to tell freshly arrived young diplomats: "Congratulations. You have been accredited to the last Byzantine court."

The STA complains that M'Bow is autocratic and arbitrary in his appointments and has systematically left full-time posts vacant while recruiting hundreds of staff on short-term contracts.

But resentment against M'Bow among the staff goes deeper. "This is basically a cultural dispute," one Western employee said.

UNESCO staffers say M'Bow, encouraged by Third World and Soviet bloc governments, has perverted the principles of the International Civil Service by using

nationality rather than competence as the criterion for recruitment and promotion.

M'Bow's supporters say these accusations smack of racism and reflect a Western inability to accept the emergence of developing states since UNESCO was founded in London in 1945.

His critics say he has tried to weaken the STA by fostering the creation of a rival association, known as AIPU, whose members are drawn from the Third World.

"This association is a phantom body created by M'Bow. Nobody knows its real membership figure but it is unlikely to be more than two or three hundred," a member of STA said.

The STA, which says it represents 1,400 of the 2,300 staff in Paris, accuses M'Bow of using the AIPU to pursue a policy of divide and rule.

Last week's one-day strike, which the AIPU opposed, was the first at the agency since 1974. "We at UNESCO have always been very docile," one staffer said.

The spark which galvanised staff out of their apathy was de Padirac's decision to declare a hunger strike.

The presence of de Padirac and six other hunger strikers camped in the lobby under a red and white

banner and surrounded by sympathisers dramatised the dispute — as it was meant to.

On the third day of the fast, dignitaries invited by M'Bow to celebrate UNESCO's 40th anniversary were ushered in through a side entrance so they would not glimpse the hunger strikers.

Inside the half-empty main conference hall the atmosphere was overshadowed by the strike and by the pullout of Britain.

"It was more like a funeral than a birthday party," commented one staffer.

The gloom was only accentuated by the jaunty optimism of a short documentary film showing the high hopes with which the organisation was launched in the aftermath of World War II.

By Friday, the atmosphere in a mass meeting of around 1,000 staff was, by contrast, effervescent.

There was loud applause when de Padirac, a dapper French scientist in his 30s, told the meeting that after negotiations M'Bow had accepted the STA's main demand — a joint committee to handle job cuts and redeployment.

He said the result was a victory for UNESCO. "Let us continue to defend UNESCO and tomorrow its ideals will become reality," he said.

## South African army uses frontier farms as anti-guerrilla out-posts

By Victor Mallet  
Reuter

WEIPE, South Africa — The gun-toting white farmers of South Africa's northern frontier with Zimbabwe were not particularly surprised when a series of guerrilla land-mine explosions recently shattered the rural calm.

"The farmers in the region are all part of our area defence system," said Colonel Johann Swanepoel, the local military commander charged with tracking the guerrillas and finding the lethal devices planted under the dusty roads.

The Pretoria government has subsidised the farmers to help them settle in this militarily-sensitive area along the banks of the Limpopo river, where they grow cotton and wheat.

By the end of the year, with the help of interest-free government loans, some 270 whites in the far northern Transvaal should have, radios allowing them to com-

municate with the army on the Military Area Radio Network (MARNET), Swanepoel said.

Guerrillas of the African National Congress (ANC), the main exiled black organisation fighting white rule, recently slipped over the dry bed of the Limpopo from Zimbabwe by night and planted at least nine land-mines, the army said.

Five exploded under vehicles, killing black tractor-driver Philemon Neube and injuring four soldiers and a lorry driver. Four more devices were defused.

Neube's white employer, 33-year-old Wynand Erasmus, carries a pistol and says the land-mine explosion next to his house — which was witnessed by his five-year-old son — will not stop him living in Weipe.

"A guy doesn't want to leave so he'll stay," said Erasmus, who like most of the local farmers plays his part in civil defence and is in close contact with the military.

asked us not to use a Zimbabwean workforce for security reasons," he said outside his house as armoured personnel carriers scoured the area for mines.

But one black South African farmworker who asked not to be identified said local blacks supported the ANC anyway, despite the death of the tractor driver.

Black men on the farms earn as little as 73 rand (\$27) a month, and the women 62 rand (\$23), he said.

"This is a distinctive little area," says 48-year-old white farmer Ben Roos, whose family has farmed here since 1950.

He said most whites supported the relatively reformist National Party government, although parts of South Africa's far north are strongholds of the extreme rights wing.

The local Dutch Reformed Church is in Messina, 65 km to the east. "The dominex (minister) comes here once a month, and we

have church at each farmhouse in turn," said Roos.

A pastime for some is game hunting in the sun-drenched bush of the northern Transvaal or in Zimbabwe. The land, dotted with ungainly baobab trees, supports cheetah, leopard, zebra, impala, kudu and wildebeest.

Tom Argyle, who fought for Ian Smith's white Rhodesian regime in what is now Zimbabwe against black nationalists who took power in 1980, is another gun-toting farmer unmoved by the land-mine blasts.

"I'm quite easy about this. I lost a leg in the war in Rhodesia," he said. "The whole farming community is quite easy."

When the mines were first discovered whites were advised to stay on their farms and not to venture onto untested roads. One farmer had a narrow escape when his pick-up truck was destroyed by a mine. His dog in the back was killed but he was unscathed.

ملكا من الدول



## The case for mud: The solution for the poor's housing problems

The higher demand for housing and the rise in the cost of building materials during the last three decades prompted scientists and architects to look for and study traditional building methods. One such traditional method is building in mud. In the following article, the first in a series of three, Jordan Times reporter Najwa Najjar reviews the history, techniques and contemporary pioneers of building in mud.

**EARTH ARCHITECTURE** or building by the use of mud seems to conjure up condescending images of "primitive" huts and "distant squatters". Half of the Third World's population presently live in mud houses. It has been calculated that by the year 2000 more than 600 million houses will have to be built in developing countries. Building in mud offers one way in which the growing poorer populations of the Third World can be housed in the future.

International bi-lateral aid institutions, building research institutions, architectural departments in universities, technology organisations, and other individuals have stressed that mud and other traditional building materials can make an important contribution to the pressing housing problems in developing countries for the following reasons:

— Raw earth constitutes 74 per cent of the earth's crust making it widely available and low in cost.

— The long history of building in mud has made people familiar with earth building techniques. And since these techniques are simple, in that no sophisticated equipment is required, they are suitable to self-help housing construction.

— In addition the techniques and materials used require less energy and lower capital for their manufacture than do modern building materials, such as cement.

— The usage of traditional materials, moreover, releases scarce modern building materials for important development projects such as industries, factories, and roads.

— These reasons also reduce Third World's demand for foreign exchange.

— Building in mud is also climatically suited to the needs of developing countries.

— Finally well-used earth architecture is aesthetically pleasing, and asserts cultural identity.

For centuries the villagers of the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America have recognised the advantages of building in mud. Some earth architecture has stood for thousands of years. For example Jericho, 10,000 years old, was built in mud, as was Babylon and the Tower of Babel. Great stretches of the Wall of China were composed principally of earth. Similarly in North Africa the fortified walls of the largest cities of Morocco; Rabat, Marrakesh, and Fes were built of raw earth in the beginning of the 12th century. Numerous other examples can be

found worldwide suiting a variety of needs, climates, and cultures.

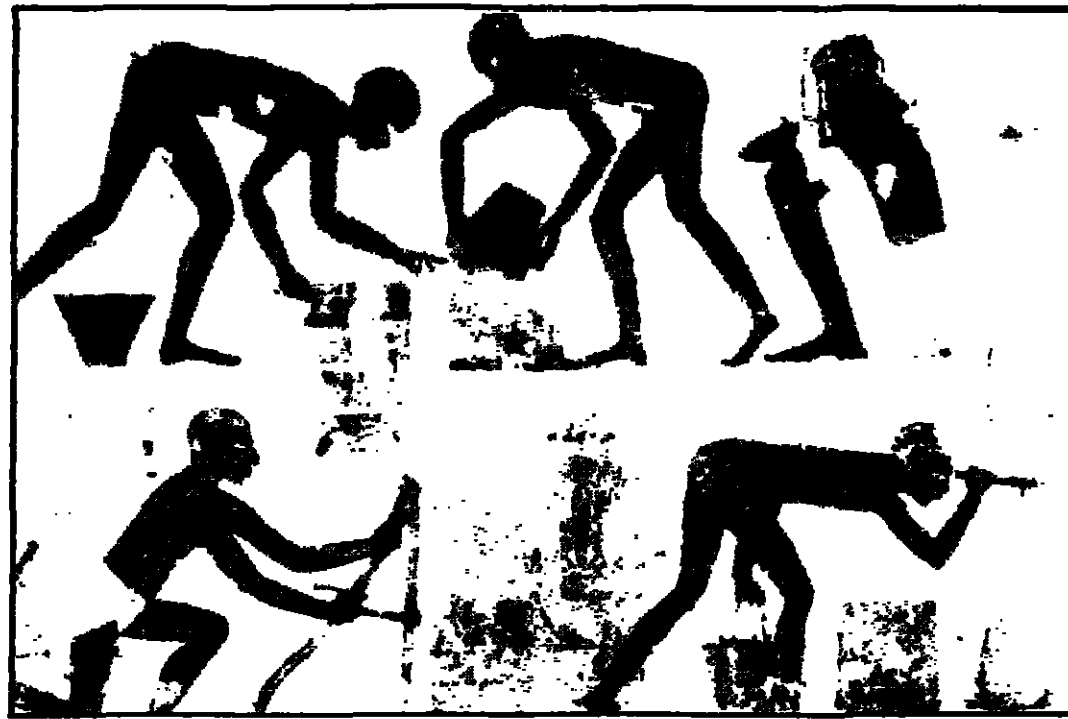
However, today mud is no longer fashionable. A state of mind, Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere describes as a "kind of paralysis," has overwhelmed planners and architects obsessed with the use of cement. Housing planners dismiss traditional building materials, and researchers do not spend time improving them because housing planners are not interested.

While this vicious circle goes on, inflation and rising energy costs make it virtually impossible for the majority in the Third World to purchase even the cheapest modern house made of cement. This is more so for individuals in rural areas. One choice these individuals have to solve the problem of housing is building in mud.

Building in mud is not a difficult process. Many ways have emerged of how to use earth. Two processes have been established as the most common and reliable: adobe and pise.

Adobe, a word of Arab origin, Al-Toob, is the name Arabs gave to the mixture of earth, water and finely chopped straw. This doughy mixture is manually rammed into brick moulds; producing bricks, which need to be left to dry in the sun for almost a month, before being used to build walls, vaults, and domes. Mechanic and hydraulic manual presses have been devised to accelerate and improve this production method.

Pise, or "rammed earth," first



The basic process of mud brickmaking has hardly changed in thousands of years. The above detail from the Egyptian frieze shows adobe brickmakers at work in ancient Egypt — (Earthscan photo)

appeared in France in 1562. This technique consists of earth compressed between parallel wooden plates. Traditionally earth was compressed manually by heavy wooden hammers, but this can now be accomplished more easily and rapidly with pneumatic rammers.

These improvements make it possible to use both adobe and pise on a large scale with minimum mechanisation.

Two other building techniques were also used. In the wattle and daub technique, walls are made by mud plastered (daubed) over a mat made of sticks (known as wattle). In another simpler method lumps of ill-formed clay placed on top of each other were used. The walls were then plastered with a coat of mud mixed with some organic material such as cowdung.

Walls of mud houses have recently been made by a stabilisation process. In this technique mud is mixed with other cheap, locally available materials such as cement, bitumen, lime, or cowdung to improve the mud's strength and resistance. Compressing the earth, by hand or machine, also adds strength to the mud.

Much is a good insulator and helps to keep houses cool during hot, tropical days, and warm at night and during the cooler seasons. But, when it gets wet, it loses its strength and crumbles. Dr. A.A. Hammoud of the Building and Road Research Institute of Kumasi, Ghana has made a study of the common defects found in mud buildings. He found that the main causes of deterioration are shrinking, cracks, and erosion, underscoring and mechanical damage, due directly or indirectly to water. However, by using a suitable mix of appropriate architectural elements (stone foundations) structural techniques

(overhanging roofs), stabilisation measures (correct proportions of clay or cement in the mud), and care in siting (with good drainage), mud buildings can be successfully built in almost all types of climatic regions, and with proper care and maintenance should last for decades. Dr. Hammoud contends.

Climate dictates the design. In dry areas, mud walls and flat mud roofs suffice. On the other hand in wetter areas mud roofs are replaced by sloping tiles or thatch to shed water. Architecture can be used to enhance the advantages and reduce the disadvantages.

After every rainy season, the coatings of the walls, consisting mainly of raw earth, must be renewed. Thus the facades change annually and vary infinitely as each individual expresses his creative impulses. Since ancient times peoples all over the world have decorated mud buildings by engraving, painting, and drawing, abstract gestural, geometric, symbolic or figurative signs on the mud surfaces. Lime, rice powder, natural colouring agents such as turmeric and henna have all been used. The decoration can express people's artistic, cultural, and religious heritage.

The techniques in earth buildings are relatively easy to master, enabling the inhabitants to partially or entirely construct their homes. Improvements have diminished most of the disadvantages of building in mud.

Cement and steel remain expensive, difficult to distribute and require trained builders and elaborate equipment. Even though a man in rural Africa must work 10 days to earn the price of one bag of cement, most poverty-stricken individuals turn to these modern building materials. For them housing

## Biotechnology lives up to early promise

By Catherine Arnst  
Reuter

BOSTON — After more than a decade of promising medical miracles, biotechnology is beginning to show some results, not just for investors but also for patients.

The industry is still a long way from reimbursing backers who have invested some \$1.5 billion in more than 200 U.S. biotechnology companies.

But a series of bright developments was capped this month by news that researchers at the National Cancer Institute had early success treating cancer victims with a biological compound called Interleukin-2.

Several other products have also reached the critical stage of tests on humans, the most important step in winning U.S. government approval of a new drug.

Biotechnology is unique in using nature's own biological processes for research and industrial purposes.

The science got off to a start in the early 1970s after researchers discovered that they could strengthen some of nature's own defence mechanisms by altering the basic genetic substance of all living things, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).

The process used is called gene splicing.

Some of the biotechnology industry's most significant new products are:

— Protopin, a growth hormone used to treat dwarfism in children, developed by Genentech Inc. and recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

— Tissue plasminogen activator (TPA), a genentech protein which can stop heart attacks while they are in progress.

— Erythropoietin (EPO), a hormone produced by Amgen Co. that stimulates the creation of red blood cells, thus reducing the need for blood transfusions in the treatment of anaemia and kidney dialysis patients.

"Biotechnology is now beyond infancy and into its adolescence," said Scott King, industry analyst with Montgomery Securities Inc.

But he cautioned that it will probably take at least another five years before the industry starts to turn a profit.

One problem is that a number of different American federal agencies oversee biotechnology activities and there is no overall government policy for dealing with the industry.

"Product managers may easily become lost in the confused and uncoordinated regulatory process," said David Sakura, a consultant with Arthur D. Little Inc. "As a result, fewer products are

ready for commercial markets on time."

The industry did, however, achieve a breakthrough with the government last month when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the first deliberate release of genetically engineered organisms into the environment.

This allows a biotechnology company to conduct small-scale tests of genetically altered bacteria designed to prevent frost damage to strawberries.

The industry hopes the EPA's move, which was supported by three other government agencies, is the beginning of a uniform approach to testing.

The only genetically produced drug to reach the market to date is human insulin, but it offers little improvement over a cheaper equivalent derived from pigs.

The approval of Protopin, an altered version of the human growth hormone, attracted attention because it is the first drug developed by gene-splicing to reach the market under a biotechnology company's own label.

Genentech, the largest of the independent biotechnology firms, earlier developed a synthetic insulin but sold the licence to produce it to the giant drug firm Eli Lilly and Co.

Genentech eventually expects to sell \$40 million worth of protopin per year.

Analysts say Genentech is more likely to achieve its goal of dominating the field with TPA, expected to be launched within the next few years.

About 1.5 million Americans suffer heart attacks every year, and analysts have estimated a potential U.S. market for TPA of \$300 million to 400 million a year.

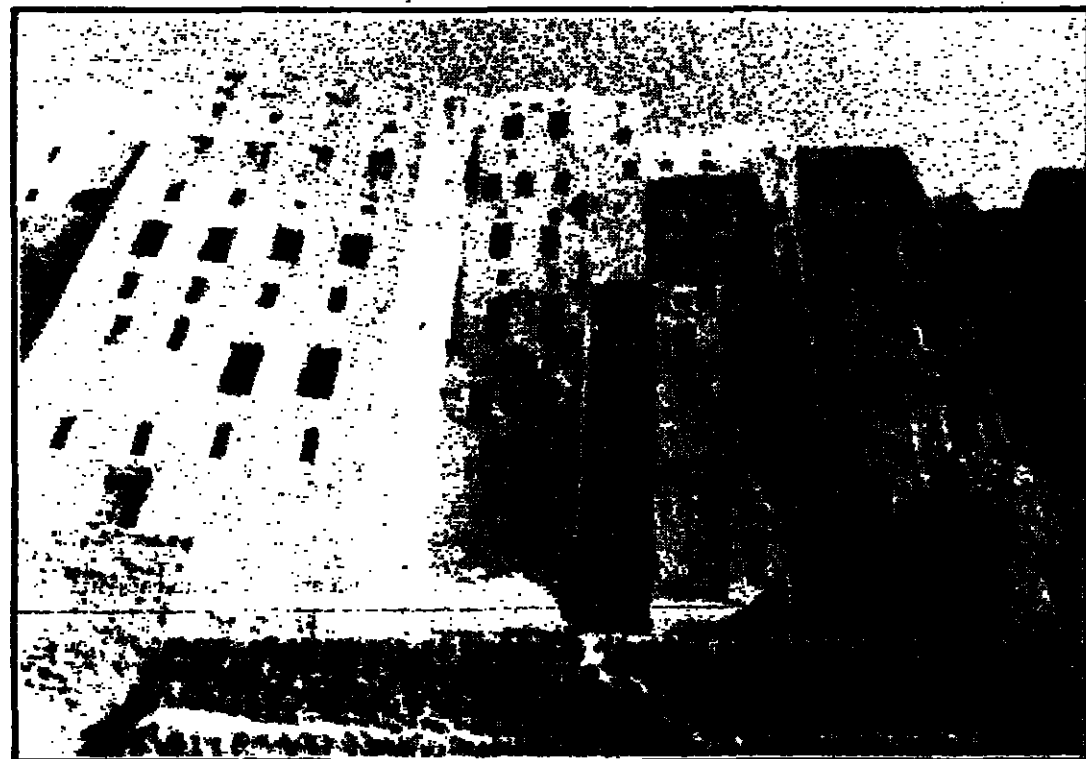
TPA dissolves blood clots that block the arteries to the heart. It is an enhanced version of plasminogen, a human protein that dissolves the proteins that hold blood clots together.

An industry newsletter expects the market for the EPO hormone, which stimulates the creation of red blood cells, to reach \$100 million annually. It will begin to be tested on humans early next year.

But the biggest potential market is cancer treatment, which is why the stocks of Interleukin-2 (IL-2) makers Cetus Corp. and Genentech soared after the National Cancer Institute report.

IL-2 is a substance produced by white blood cells that attacks and destroys cancerous cells.

Researchers are particularly excited about IL-2 because it can apparently work against a broad range of cancers. Human testing is still very limited, however, and FDA approval is not expected before the end of 1988.



A multi-storey mud building in Shibam, South Yemen — (Earthscan photo)

## Lower House approves draft budget for 1986 after debate

(Continued from page 1)

They also urged the government to check public spending and improve the sources of domestic revenue by investing on productive projects which could constitute a major source of income for the country.

The members warned against borrowing from international credit institutions which charge high interest rates by pointing out that excessive borrowing could threaten Jordan's economic and political independence and security.

Most of the deputies praised the government's recent measures to protect the industrial sector but said that these measures should be applied only to industries producing high quality goods and that monopolisation of commodities should be checked.

The members also repeated previous calls for a comprehensive agricultural plan which could provide enough support for the farmers and help in marketing agricultural products and achieving self-sufficiency.

Many deputies stressed the need for raising the efficiency of the Audit Bureau. Some deputies suggested the standardisation of

accounting methods.

A number of members called on the government to lift the martial law and to allow the formation of political parties and groupings. (Major excerpts from the deputies' speeches appear on page 3).

In his reply to deputies on the issue of the Armed Forces, Mr. Rifai said the main aim of the Kingdom's policies "is the liberation of the (occupied) lands and the support of the defence capabilities of our Armed Forces, and diversification in sources of weapons falls within this aim."

The prime minister told the House that "honourable and just peace comes only from a position of strength. It is important to me to assure the House that there are no strings attached to our purchases of arms in any way and from any source."

On the issue of supporting the steadfastness of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, Mr. Rifai told the House that his government is about to put the final touches on a comprehensive economic and social development plan. "We hope we will soon be able to present it to you and start

implementing it within the available resources and in accordance with our priorities," the prime minister said.

On the subject of travelling restrictions on people living in the occupied West Bank, Mr. Rifai said that allowing people from the occupied territories "to travel here, reside and work without restrictions could help the (Israeli) occupation authorities to exploit these facilities in its continuing attempts to Judaize the land and evict the population." In the light of this reality, the government is offering all possible facilities.

Regarding the Telecommunications Corporation, Mr. Rifai said the government "has studied the possibility of converting it into a national company in order to ensure the best services for the largest number of citizens and with the lowest possible cost."

He said the government did not contact any foreign company for the purpose of selling the corporation.

Replying to deputies' comments on the agricultural sector, Mr. Rifai said some deputies "mistakenly thought that the gross



The Lower House of Parliament in session on Monday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

development expenditure in the agricultural field was limited to JD 2.3 million." He said allocations for agriculture through various other institutions reached JD 35 million. The budget included a direct subsidy of JD 7 million for agricultural products to support farmers and their products, he said.

Mr. Rifai said his government will continue to subsidise bread, regardless of the source of wheat. He said the government buys locally produced wheat at double the price in international markets.

On oil exploration in the Kingdom, Mr. Rifai said his government will continue implementing the national programme for the exploration of oil. He said the government will expand its operations to include other areas in the country.

Replying to criticism on industrial protectionism, the prime minister said the recently adopted measures were aimed at revitalising the national economy. He said the Kingdom's policy was in harmony with the call for the support of the national product and the limitation of imports.

Commenting on the Kingdom's third five-year development plan (1986-1990), Mr. Rifai said the

plan is nearly finished after several months of continuous work. He said it will be soon made public.

Touching on the growing unemployment problem, Mr. Rifai said "the government is giving this subject special consideration." He said the Ministry of Labour has instructions not to accept applications from non-Jordanians unless for jobs that cannot be filled by local manpower.

He said the government will introduce programmes for the training and rehabilitation of job applicants who are to be absorbed into sectors where they are needed.

He told the House that the Ministry of Higher Education was established with the aim of diversification and specialisation in accordance with the needs of the domestic and external markets. He said the newly-created secondary phase admission examination falls within this context.

The prime minister said that one of the aims of the next five-year development plan is to provide more than 100,000 job opportunities through investment projects in public and private sectors.

Explaining the recent int-

## Syria scoffs at 'Israeli threats'; Rabin plays down deployment

(Continued from page 1)

drums of war in the region believe they can frighten Syria and prevent it from protecting Lebanon and the Palestine revolution.

"They must understand well that Syria is continuing its efforts aimed at helping Lebanon and the Palestinian people."

Though tensions have increased following the disclosure of the missile redeployment, Israeli leaders said on Monday they did not want to trigger a conflict.

"There is no political reason now to justify an Israeli initiative to go to war," Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in a speech, without referring directly to the missiles.

Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, chairman of parliament's foreign affairs and security committee, told reporters there was no justification for a "retaliatory" Israeli strike at the missiles.

Western and Israeli military experts said, however, that risk of conflict had clearly increased. The new deployment "creates a situation that could lead to serious deterioration," wrote Haaretz columnist Zev Schiff.

Eban said Sunday that "there was definitely a certain amount of tension (with Syria), but I don't think there's a crisis."

Speaking on Israel Television, Eban also said Israel did not have a legal right to demand that Syria withdraw the missiles from its border with Lebanon. "The emphasis must be on a political solution" to remove the missile "threat," said Eban.

Eban said the Syrian challenge to Israel's "freedom" to patrol Lebanese skies was clearly a response to an incident last month when Israeli planes on a reconnaissance mission over Lebanon and Syrian warplanes fought a dogfight.

Military officials said that Israel waited weeks before announcing the latest missile deployment to give U.S. envoy Richard Murphy a chance to try to defuse the situation during a visit to Damascus.

When the Syrians failed to act, Israel decided publicity was necessary, they said.

In another development, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said new "naval and sup-

port units from the Soviet Union" were delivered at the Latakia naval base Sunday to "reinforce the Syrian navy."

Syria's chief-of-staff, Maj. Gen. Hikmat Shihabi, attended the handover along with the Soviet ambassador to Damascus, A. Fedotov, and his top aides, SANA said.

It did not disclose the type or number of the new vessels. Before the delivery, Syria's 2,500-man navy had 38 vessels, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

These were two frigates, 28 fast attack missile craft, four minesweepers and three coastal patrol craft, all supplied by the Soviet Union. France supplied one large patrol craft.

Syria's defence minister, Gen. Mustafa Tlass, Sunday reiterated at the graduation of cadets at Syria's military academy that the Syrian government will "spare no effort or potential to achieve a strategic balance with Israel."

The IISS's 1984-85 military balance listed Israel's 9,000-man navy as having 74 warships, including three West German-made submarines and 26 missile-carrying attack craft and hydrofoils.

Damascus Radio said later on Sunday the Syrian anti-aircraft missiles were "a legal weapon which frightens only those who commit aggression or intend to commit it."

"Every nation has the right to take all defensive measures within its border... self-defence is an internationally-recognised legal right," it said.

Lebanon, it said, was an independent, sovereign state and Israel "has no right to send its planes, under any cover, to Lebanese skies."

"It is Israeli airspace that ought to be open for reconnaissance flights, for it was Israel that committed aggression, invaded Lebanon, occupied Palestine and part of the Syrian Golan Heights... and threatens us with aggression every day," the radio said.

It said the United States should bear responsibility for the behaviour of Israel's rulers, whom it said "are enjoying its military, material and moral backing."



Cabinet members attend Monday's session of the Lower House of Parliament (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)



# A basketball game to forget

NEW YORK (AP) — After watching 222 points scored in a sloppy defensive game, Milwaukee Bucks coach Don Nelson called it "a real long night."

Think of how Sacramento coach Phil Johnson must have felt — his team lost by a franchise-record 58 points.

"It was one of those games when nothing goes right for you," Johnson said after Sunday night's 140-82 National Basketball Association whipping by the Bucks. The Bucks didn't gloat.

"It's one of those things," said Milwaukee coach Don Nelson, who said he told Johnson after the game he was "sorry he (Johnson) had to sit through such a whipping. We do have sympathy for fellow coaches," Nelson added. "A 20-point loss is tough enough. But 50 points? That's a real long night for all of us."

Terry Cummings scored 21 points to lead eight Milwaukee players in double figures. Milwaukee gained the lead for good with 7:59 left in the first period. The margin of victory — 58 points — was the second largest in Bucks' history.

The NBA record for the biggest margin of victory is 63, in a 162-99 Los Angeles win over Golden State on March 19, 1972.

Milwaukee's largest margin was 59 points — 143-84 over Detroit Dec. 26, 1978.

Milwaukee fans at times chanted "Defence, defence" when Sacramento had the ball.

"I expected to be part of history, but not this way," said Kings forward Eddie Johnson.

Asked if the Bucks "rubbed it in," coach Johnson answered: "Of course... it comes around."

Celtics 109, Bulls 104

Larry Bird scored 34 points. Kevin McHale 27 and Dennis Johnson 23 as Boston rallied with 12 consecutive points down the stretch to beat Chicago.

Trailing 103-94 with just under five minutes remaining, the Celtics exploded in providing coach K.C. Jones with his 300th NBA victory.

The Bulls, 4-15 on the road this season and 2-9 in their last 11 starts, shocked the Celtics by charging to a 31-26 first-period lead

and then widening the margin to as much as 12 points, 42-30, in the second quarter before settling for a 61-52 halftime advantage.

Johnson, playing with a heavily taped left thumb and wrist to protect a hand injured last Wednesday, then ignited the Celtics, hitting for 17 points in a torrid third quarter.

"It was a night the Celtics could have been beaten," said Chicago coach Stan Albeck. "We got the ball to the right people, but the shots just didn't go in."

In other NBA games, it was Boston 109, Chicago 104; Golden State 112, Chicago 105, and Los Angeles Lakers 132, Detroit 119.

Warriors 112, Sonics 105

Joe Barry Carroll scored four points for Golden State in the final 15 seconds and the Warriors ended a five-game losing streak by beating Seattle.

Carroll, who outlasted Seattle's Tom Chambers for a rebound with 15 seconds remaining, was fouled on the play and made two free throws to make the score 108-105. With four seconds left, Carroll stole a pass and drove for a layup.

The Warriors had lost 12 of their last 14 games to sink to within half a game of last place in the Pacific Division.

Carroll finished with 24 points, second to forward Purvis Short, who had 27, among Golden State scorers. Short had 20 of his points in the second half.

Lakers 132, Pistons 119

James Worthy scored 25 points and Earvin "Magic" Johnson added 19 to lead Los Angeles over Detroit.

Kareem Abdul Jabbar scored 18 points and Byron Scott tallied 17. Kurt Rambis added 10 points as all Laker starters scored in double figures without playing during the fourth quarter. Rambis led Los Angeles with 11 rebounds.



Jordan Press Association President Mahmoud Al Kayed and Jordan Soccer Federation President Sultan Majid Al Adwan announce the creation of the "Press Cup" soccer championship.

## Soccer 'Press Cup' planned

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) and the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) officially announced on Sunday that they had reached agreement on the establishment of a "Press Cup" soccer tournament, an annual event which will be staged for the first time next April.

JPA President Mahmoud Al Kayed and JSF President Sultan Majid Al Adwan, along with members of the JSF's Executive Committee, agreed after lengthy discussions to inaugurate the annual soccer championship next

April with the participation of the Jordanian clubs Al Faisaly, Al Ramtha, Al Wehdat, and Al Jazeera. All four teams had earlier agreed to compete in the tourney.

An official from the press association added that the Press Cup trophy would be designed in Italy and would carry the logo of both the JPA and the JSF. Gold and silver medals, designed by Jordanian artists, would also be produced for presentation to the players of the champion and runner-up teams.

## British cyclists end Jordanian leg of world fund raising tour

By Sa'ad G. Hattar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two British cyclists arrived here recently after covering some 9,600 kilometres through Europe, Turkey and Syria in the course of a fund-raising trip for medical associations in England.

Gary Davidson, 31, and Juane Pike, 23, kicked off on June 10 from Nottingham, England on an overseas cycling trip, which will ultimately take them to Australia.

For each 1000 kilometres the two adventurers cover, they call their friends back home to raise money on a regular basis from volunteers. The funds are being raised for the London-based Red Cross Society and kidney patients.

The trip has taken Gary and Juane through France, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Syria and Jordan, where they have already visited the West Bank.

Speaking about their encounters during the trip, both cyclists agreed that the Jordanian leg of their tour was the most interesting and enjoyable. The people of the Kingdom were friendly and since "our arrival three weeks ago we only slept two nights in a hotel and the rest we were being

hosted by Jordanian families," they told the Jordan Times on Monday.

The two cyclists said their worst experience was in Italy while taking a nap nearby a lake. A group of drunks filled plastic bags with water and tossed them at the bikers, wetting their clothes.

In Thessaloniki, Greece, a blind man's cane stuck into the wheels of Juane's cycle while riding, but fortunately nothing grave resulted.

After flying from Amman to Pakistan they will cycle to India and Sri Lanka before continuing on to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia. Gary and Juane plan to visit the Friends of the Kidney Patients Society during their stay in Jordan to get first hand information about the society and its efforts on behalf of kidney patients.

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## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



In aid of the Crown Prince's Award Scheme, a Christmas Bazaar will be held at the International Baccalaureate School on Friday 20 December, from 11 a.m. onwards.  
Games for adults and children, handicrafts, cake sale, toys, Father Christmas, lunch and refreshments and many other attractions.

Entrance fee 250 fils.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Brazil favoured to win World Cup

LONDON (R) — London bookmakers have made Brazil favourites to win the 1986 World Cup following Sunday night's draw in Mexico City. The winners in 1958, 1962 and 1970, placed in Group D with Spain, Algeria and Northern Ireland, were quoted at 5-2. Argentina, in Group A with defending champions Italy, Bulgaria and South Korea, were second favourites at 11-4. The Bookmakers see Uruguay (7-1) and West Germany (16-1) qualifying from Group E, considered the most competitive group in the finals. The other teams in Group E, Denmark and Scotland, were quoted at 20-1 and 66-1 respectively. Iraq, South Korea, Morocco, Canada and Algeria, quoted at 500-1, were given little chance of winning the trophy.

### Leconte's paycheck a little light

SYDNEY (R) — French tennis star Henri Leconte rushed from winning the New South Wales Open tournament to catch a plane home only to find he had been presented with the runner-up's cheque. Leconte, \$10,000 short, turned round halfway to the airport Sunday and was back at Sydney's White City Stadium 20 minutes after leaving. "I have the wrong pay cheque," he told losing finalist New Zealander Kerry Evernden. After swapping envelopes, Leconte telephoned his wife Brigitte in Paris to say he would be home a day late. Leconte, ranked 20th in the world, won his first championship victory in Australia and \$20,000 by beating Evernden 6-7, 6-2, 6-3.

### Cauthen completes alcoholism treatment

CINCINNATI (R) — Jockey Steve Cauthen has been released from Christ Hospital here after undergoing treatment for alcohol dependency, his uncle said Sunday. Tom Bischoff told Reuters that Cauthen left the hospital Saturday with his parents, Tex and Myra Cauthen, and went to the family home in nearby Walton, Kentucky. "I'm sure Steve is going to be just fine," said Bischoff, a trainer who saddled his nephew's first mount more than nine years ago. "I don't think the problem was a serious one." Cauthen's father and Bischoff confirmed last Thursday that Cauthen, England's champion jockey the last two years, had voluntarily entered the hospital three weeks ago to undergo treatment for a drinking problem.

### PSV Eindhoven secure in first place

AMSTERDAM (R) — PSV Eindhoven approach the Dutch first division's mid-winter break with a commanding lead after notching up their 16th win in 18 matches at the weekend. PSV top the table with 33 points after a 2-0 win at Haarlem which extended their advantage over Ajax and Feyenoord to seven points. Michel Valke picked up a pass from Frans De Rooy to put the Eindhoven team ahead in the 28th minute. Haarlem were never in the game and PSV's Danish international Frank Arnesen scored the second from a Ton Lokhoff cross after 67 minutes.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Philippine Embassy announces the passing away of Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, former Minister for Foreign Affairs on 15 Dec. 1985. A book of condolences will be open from 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. from 17 to 19 Dec. 1985, at the Embassy Chancery, Jabel Amman.



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## Nearly all banks back Baker plan

Most, but by no means all, of the banks gave details of their services to customers, both borrowers and depositors. An annual report can give a bank a good showcase in which to describe its wares and illustrate them with appropriate pictures. Not many exploited this opportunity and even those that did tended to say little about service delivery.

"The plan is a positive step but not enough on its own," Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias told reporters.

Oil shares finished lower after a dull session with fears of a slide in crude oil prices pushing shares lower, dealers said. B.P. ended 5p lower at 536. North Americans were mostly firmer.

our progeny will not go on the primrose path. Teach to be more objective as it will avoid a lot of confusion.

MIND IF I GET PAST?—

THUMP  
THUMP  
THUMP—

— ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN!  
THERE'S A COUPLE O' QUID  
IN MY PURSE —  
GET YSELF OUT!



# Pretoria wants urgent talks with Harare after blast kills 6 whites

PRETORIA (R) — South Africa said Monday it was making urgent approaches to Zimbabwe after six whites were killed when a truck carrying two families detonated a land mine near the border.

Foreign Minister P. Botha said in a brief statement: "The South African government is urgently approaching the Zimbabwean authorities in connection with the incident and with a view to finding ways and means of removing the threat of violence and terror of this nature."

South Africa says it believes the mine was one of several planted three weeks ago by what it says were African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas who slipped into South Africa from Zimbabwe and fled back the same way.

The army said those killed by the blast at a game farm Sunday

night were a brother and sister aged two and eight, their mother, the farm owner's mother, his three-year-old son and nine-year-old daughter.

Five people, including the farm owner, were gravely injured in the blast.

The game farm is one of many private stock-rearing establishments in the northern Transvaal. The two families both lived in Tzaneen, a town 150 kilometres south of the farm.

Several other mines exploded in the area, 30 kilometres west of Messina, last month and a black farm worker was killed.

Last month South Africa demanded that Zimbabwe stop guerrillas using its territory, saying that unless Harare took effective action Pretoria would send troops across the border into Zimbabwe.

Pretoria has in the past raided what it called ANC bases in Mozambique, Botswana and Lesotho.

Zimbabwe denies that it provides facilities for the guerrillas.

Meanwhile in Durban South African police clashed with anti-apartheid demonstrators on the eve of a religious holiday for the country's ruling Dutch-descended Afrikaners.

Amid widespread rumours of plans for black protest Monday, the day of the vow, when Afrikaners mark a 1838 victory over Zulu warriors, the country's main internal anti-apartheid group held a rally in Durban Sunday which

ended with police tear-gassing and whipping black demonstrators.

The rare outbreak of protests in a city regarded by whites in racially-divided South Africa as their territory followed a United Democratic Front (UDF) rally to call for the release of jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

As thousands emerged from the stadium where the rally was held, youths hurled volleys of bricks and bottles at cars driven by whites and at parked buses, then stoned police speeding off for reinforcements.

Eight UDF leaders, silenced for months by tough bail restrictions imposed while they faced trial on treason charges, were guests of honour at the rally. The state dropped charges against them and four others last week.

## Protesters clash with police over missing Basque

PAMPLONA, Spain (R) — Demonstrators clashed with police in northern Spanish cities during protests against the death of a Basque who disappeared while in police custody, officials said.

Two people were arrested in Pamplona, where police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at activists who set up barricades.

In the coastal city of San Sebastian about 1,000 protesters set up blazing barricades and hurled paving stones at police, while in the nearby town of Renteria demonstrators blocked traffic on the national highway linking Spain to France.

There were no reports of injuries or arrests in San Sebastian or Renteria.

At least five people were injured and seven arrested in clashes on Saturday in Pamplona and San Sebastian.

The demonstrators were protesting against the death of Mikel Zabala, whose body was found Sunday floating in the Bidasoa River near here.

Police said Zabala, 32, escaped from them on the night of Nov. 26 while leading them to an arms cache.

On Sunday they said a civil guard anti-terrorist patrol found his body near the spot where they said he had escaped.

Fifteen Red Cross frogmen searched a 500 metre stretch of the river for three days without finding a trace of the missing man.

Doctors who performed an autopsy on Zabala's body Sunday night in Pamplona said Monday their initial findings gave no indication as to the cause of death.

## Marcos to be charged if Aquino is elected

NEW YORK (R) — Corazon Aquino, widow of Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino, says she will arrest Ferdinand Marcos for her husband's murder if she is elected to succeed him as president, the New York Times reported Monday.

The Times said Mrs. Aquino, in an interview in Manila Sunday, said of Mr. Marcos: "I will file charges against him."

Later she modified this statement, the Times said, adding: "Maybe it doesn't even have to be me."

Mrs. Aquino's husband was slain at Manila Airport in 1983 after three years of self-imposed exile. She has repeatedly said that she holds Mr. Marcos, whom she is opposing in a February 7 election, responsible for her husband's death.

She spoke to Times editors after an election rally Sunday, telling them that she had no specific programme of government.

"The only thing I can really offer the Filipino people is my sincerity," the Times quoted her as saying.

Meanwhile a senior cabinet minister Monday accused the United States of interfering in Philippine politics and said Washington supported the opposition ticket for February's presidential election.

"What we see as American meddling is defined by them as the use of 'enlightened leverage' on the Philippines to 'strengthen the democratic institutions,'" Labour Minister Blas Ople told reporters.

"They have any number of (congressional) resolutions that practically formalise and legitimise that intervention. These are all undeniable, highly visible signs of intervention in our politics."

"I think there is no mistaking the fact that American authorities, working visibly or otherwise, are

pressing their support for the Corazon Aquino-Salvador Laurel ticket."

Mr. Ople added: "Very soon, we may have to issue another proclamation of independence just to make sure that we are still interested in preserving our sovereignty."

Accusations of U.S. meddling in the election appear to be emerging as a theme in the campaign, especially charges of American bias toward presidential challenger Mrs. Aquino, widow of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino, and her vice-presidential running mate Mr. Laurel.

The U.S. embassy denied the allegations of interference but a spokesman said: "I guess we shall be hearing a lot of this during the next few weeks."

Mr. Marcos said this weekend that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) funded and organised the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), which the opposition wants officially enlisted as poll scrutineers.

Other senior government officials have said the CIA and the U.S. embassy were involved in setting up the opposition slate.

The also point to a team of "election experts" which visited the Philippines last week at the U.S. Senate's request to observe poll preparations.

Arturo Tolentino, sacked by Mr. Marcos in March as foreign minister but named last week as his vice-presidential running mate, appeared at the same forum as Mr. Ople.

He said: "There was some evidence of (CIA) financing of Namfrel in the past ... but that was many years ago."

Of other possible U.S. interference in the election, Mr. Tolentino said: "I have no evidence of that."

## Man gets 2 years for 'insolence'

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti judge Monday jailed a man for two years for what the Kuwait News Agency KUNA called "insolence" towards the Emir. The agency gave no further details of the charge against Moussa Ghiloun Abbas and did not state his nationality. He was tried by the state security court. Newspapers earlier said Abbas was arrested for alleged defamations of the Emir. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in remarks overheard at Kuwait International Airport.

## Man beats whale in Gulf sea battle

ABU DHABI (R) — A 60-year-old fisherman battled for seven hours with a 2.5-tonne whale and managed to beach the creature before his boat was destroyed, a newspaper said Monday. Saeed Rashid Khush told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej that the three-metre whale got caught in his fishing nets and, thrashing to free itself, destroyed one of his boat's engines. After a long struggle the boat was able to reach shore with the whale in tow, the paper said.

## Santa Claus detained with sack of Christmas goods

SYDNEY (R) — A Santa Claus was arrested in a department store Monday after he helped himself to a sackful of goods, saying they were for poor and hungry children. Christmas shoppers watched as the cheery man loaded a sack with food and gifts. A store spokesman said. The man in the Santa suit said he felt it was an appropriate time to remind people about the starving children in Ethiopia and other African countries, the spokesman said. Police thought differently and charged him with stealing.

## Sylvester Stallone marries Danish actress

LOS ANGELES (R) — Sylvester Stallone, star of the Rocky and Rambo films, married Danish actress-model Brigitte Nielsen in a tightly-guarded private ceremony, friends of the couple said. Nielsen, who at 22 is 17 years younger than Stallone, was swathed in white silk for her wedding, the friends said. She appeared with Stallone in Rocky IV, playing the wife of his Soviet boxing opponent. Stallone and Nielsen made it a match at the estate of Irwin Winkler, producer of the Rocky films, in the Los Angeles coastal resort of Malibu. Security guards scrutinised the wedding guests as they drove up to the estate gates in limousines. Stallone's 10-year marriage to Sasha Stallone ended in divorce earlier this year. This was also the second marriage for Nielsen.

## Airliner loses wing parts near Boston

BOSTON (R) — A British Airways 747 airliner carrying 271 people from London lost part of a wing flap over a suburban town before landing safely at Boston's Logan International Airport, an airline spokesman said. The debris struck a car and the top of a house in Revere, a town about eight kilometres north east of the airport. Officials said no one was injured. Earlier that the debris had come from the rear of the airliner. U.S. aviation officials ordered the plane grounded until an investigation determines the cause of the incident.

## Elephants kill 4, destroy houses

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Wild elephants rampaging through new settlements in the Chittagong hill tracts, an area of rugged hills and forests, have killed four people and destroyed several hundred houses in the last six months, the newspaper Daily News has reported. The English-language newspaper said the elephants come down from deep forests at night and destroy houses, banana plantations, pineapple groves and rubber plantations in different parts of the 13,000-square-kilometre hill tracts bordering the Indian states of Tripura and Mizoram. In one attack on a house with four sleeping people in it, in the Baillashan Forest area, the elephants killed one man and injured another, the paper said.

## Charges of vote-rigging mars Assam elections

GAUHATI, India (R) — Charges of vote-rigging by rival politicians marred peaceful polling Monday for a new government in the northeast Indian state of Assam.

About 250,000 security forces were standing to head off violence in the state, where more than 3,000 people were killed in clashes during elections in 1983.

Police said 62 armed political workers were arrested in the north of the state for trying to threaten voters.

Bhubaneswar Kalita, campaign manager for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, told Reuters supporters of the rival Assam People's Front (APF) had

snatched ballot boxes and impersonated voters in parts of the capital, Gauhati.

APF spokesman Krishna Gopal Bhattacharya denied the charge, saying Congress (I) was frustrated because it would not win the elections.

The APF, formed in October by student leaders campaigning against illegal immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh, is widely expected to dislodge Congress (I) from power.

An election spokesman said the turnout in Monday's voting for 125 state assembly and 14 national parliament seats was likely to outstrip the record 66 per cent

set in 1978.

He said this contrasted sharply with the turnout of 32.6 per cent in the 1983 polls, when militant students called for an election boycott and the anti-immigrant campaign sparked widespread violence.

Monday's polls were called after an accord between the militants and the government in August ended the six-year campaign.

A carnival atmosphere surrounded polling stations in Gauhati as thousands of voters dressed in their holiday best queued up early in the morning under the gaze of police in riot gear pat-

rolling the streets.

Police said no violence was reported from the oil and tea producing state Monday, but four people were hurt in election-eve clashes.

Official sources in New Delhi said polling was moderate and peaceful in the Indian capital and 11 other states in by-elections for seven parliamentary and 12 assembly seats.

The elections are regarded as the first widespread test of Mr. Gandhi's popularity since his landslide win last December following the assassination of his mother Indira.

## Social Democrats triumph in Portuguese local polls

LISBON (R) — Portugal's ruling centre-right Social Democratic (PSD) Party emerged Monday as victors in local elections, winning the country's three biggest cities: Lisbon, Oporto and Coimbra.

With the official results of only 23 local councils still to be confirmed, the PSD had won control of 137 out of 305 towns, a few of these in alliance with other parties.

In Lisbon the PSD, running with a right-wing Christian Democrat mayor, increased its lead, winning nearly 50 per cent of the vote, though the turn-out was low.

It won Coimbra from the Socialists and held on to Oporto, a marginal seat party which officials thought they might lose.

Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, who heads a new minority government, described the election as a triumph for his party. "PSD influence has widened considerably," he said.

In several areas in the left-wing south of Portugal, the PSD ran alongside opposition Socialists to try to defeat the Communist Party and succeeded in a few towns, notably the industrial city of Setubal, formerly a Communist stronghold.

But 36 per cent of those reg-

istered failed to vote in the election, which followed the general election last October and came only six weeks before next month's presidential ballot.

It was the lowest turnout in the 12 elections since democracy was restored after the 1974 revolution.

Party activists had warned last week that the Portuguese, who have voted in 12 national polls since the restoration of democracy in 1974, were tired of elections.

More than 200,000 candidates competed in Sunday's poll for 50,000 seats at city, district and village level.

Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, whose PSD won the general election two months ago, had said a good vote for the party was needed to boost confidence in his minority government.

Early forecasts showed the PSD-Socialist alliance had paid off in a few towns but indicated that the Communists, who have a reputation for honest local government, would hold on to others.

The Soviet-allied Communists were dealt a severe blow, however, with the loss of the industrial city of Setubal south of Lisbon to the Socialist Party.

## Opposition groups protest in Dhaka for democracy

DHAKA (R) — Thousands of opposition activists watched by steel-helmeted riot police demonstrated in Dhaka Monday against the military rule of Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

Opposition leaders said the protest was designed to force Gen. Ershad to end military rule immediately and announce firm dates for parliamentary elections.

Hundreds of police guarded the city's strategic intersections and buildings but they did not try to intervene to stop the demonstration.

"We have been asked not to strike unless demonstrators try to damage public property, or cause other troubles," one police officer told Reuters.

The protest was called by the country's 15-party and seven-party opposition alliances which want four-year-old martial law lifted, election dates announced, the

appointment of a caretaker government to supervise the polls and immediate restoration of fundamental rights.

Gen. Ershad said Sunday night he would lift a nine-month-old ban on open political activity on Jan. 1 and appealed to his opponents to maintain the peace.

But political parties said they would not change their plans. They accused Gen. Ershad of trying to fool people in the name of democracy and said his offer was inadequate.

"Ours is a peaceful campaign and our workers won't become violent unless they are attacked by police or other government agents," a leader of the 15-party alliance, headed by Sheikh Hasina Wazed, told Reuters. "It's a show of strength and unity."

Leaders of the seven-party grouping of Begum Khaleda Zia said they could not defer their actions until next month.

## Wellington unmoved by U.S. threats

WELLINGTON (R) — Prime Minister David Lange said Monday he was unmoved by United States threats to intensify diplomatic pressure on New Zealand in a drive to reverse Wellington's anti-nuclear policies.

Mr. Lange told reporters that vague and unspecified threats from unnamed U.S. officials would be ignored by New Zealand.

Wellington was already living with a cut in virtually all defence ties with Washington and with the loss of influence and access to Congress and the Senate which reflected the severe displeasure of the Reagan administration over the nuclear ban, he said.

"All through that, this government has kept its cool," Mr. Lange said.

Mr. Lange was reacting to Reagan administration moves to turn up the heat on New Zealand

in an apparent last-ditch effort to forestall the passing of a law which would enshrine an 11-month-old ban on warships which are thought to be carrying nuclear warheads or which are nuclear-powered.

"There has been a decision to tell New Zealand strongly that defence and economic cooperation is at stake and that a treaty means full — not partial — cooperation," an official told Reuters in Washington.

The legislation was introduced to parliament last week but will not finally become law for several months.

New Zealand has previously shrugged off U.S. threats to withdraw security guarantees, saying Washington was never bound under the Australia, New Zealand, U.S. (ANZUS) defence pact to do more than consult with its allies and react according to its

constitutional processes.

Mr. Lange noted that Washington had consistently said it would not apply economic sanctions against his small, isolated South Pacific nation and had said the framework of the treaty would remain intact.

New Zealand did not want to be defended by nuclear weapons but wanted to continue to play its role in the treaty, which it regarded as a conventional alliance not a nuclear one.

The nuclear-free policy would be implemented, Mr. Lange said. "Let's settle down a bit and realise certain things," he added. "New Zealand has a policy which for nine years in opposition, implemented when it came to government and has legislated for... And let's try to get some concept of business as normal."

## Greenpeace starts mission to Antarctica

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — The ecologist ship Greenpeace left Monday for Antarctica despite bad ice conditions and criticism that it is ill-prepared for its mission to declare the continent a world park.

"We all appreciate the dangers," said spokesman Peter Wilkinson. "We're not going down for a confrontation nor are we going to make fools of ourselves."

"If the ice is too bad, we simply won't try to get there," Wilkinson said at a quayside news conference in Sydney Harbour. "We're not going down there to be heroes."

Greenpeace plans to establish a base camp in the New Zealand-controlled Ross Dependency immediately south of New Zealand to monitor how the southern continent is being used by the 18 Antarctic Treaty nations.

By wintering over, Greenpeace would fulfill one criterion to be a member of the Antarctic Treaty — but not another, since only nations, not organisations, can join.

The international environmental group is opposed to any nation laying claim to the territory, believing it should belong

to the world community and be declared a world park.

"Our task is to prevent Antarctica from becoming yet another wilderness despoiled by greed and insensitivity," said Wilkinson, who said he fears that colonisation coupled with mineral exploitation could make it the site of military conflict.

The expedition comprising 35 crew members is using a former Dutch ocean-going tug, renamed Greenpeace.

The ship is stopping briefly in Melbourne, southern Australia, on Thursday to collect more fuel.

The 191-foot (57.3 metre) ship, which left Amsterdam on Aug. 18 for Australia via the Panama Canal, then Mururoa and New Zealand in the South Pacific, had its bows reinforced to steam through pack ice.

Wilkinson said ice conditions were the worst in 15 years and he seemed unconcerned that a veteran Australian Antarctic research ship, Nella Dan, has been trapped in the ice for the past six weeks.

A helicopter, to be used for spotting, was taken aboard during the

ship's two-week stopover in Sydney to join the sleds, tractors, landing craft, crates of supplies and portable huts on the ship's decks.

Four members will remain behind after the main expedition pulls out in February to carry out research into the fauna and flora of the Antarctic.

The mission, which Greenpeace says is costing \$1 million, has come in for strong criticism from Australia and New Zealand, which both have claimed territory on the continent.

Australian Science Minister Barry Jones has repeatedly called for Greenpeace to scrap the trip, saying the crew do not realise the dangers they will face in Antarctica.

"They are amateurs," Mr. Jones said recently. "They are ill-prepared."

Wilkinson disagreed, saying: "We've said right from the start we know it's a risky business. We know what we're doing. Several members of the crew have been on previous Antarctic survey missions with Britain. They're not fools."

## Peking exposes high level corruption, bribery scandal

PEKING (R) — Police have arrested the head of Peking's Public Utilities Department and other senior officials for corruption, the Peking Daily reported Monday.

Newspapers also said nationwide fraud was costing more than a billion dollars a year. The two reports were the most serious so far in a wave of public exposures of high-level cheating and corruption in China.

The Peking Daily said Ma Xue-liang, head of the city's Public Utility Department, and nine other senior officials had been detained on charges of large-scale corruption and bribery.

It said Ma, 52, pocketed several thousand yuan in bribes for joining two managers at the city-owned gas company who set up their own profit-making "peace gas company" using the city's facilities and bank accounts.

The two illegally gained 1.5 million yuan (\$460,000) over six months, mainly by charging their costs to the city gas company, it said. They gave out 130,000 yuan

(\$40,625) in bribes to keep their operation quiet and kept most of the rest.

Ma is one of the highest-ranking officials to be implicated in a series of corruption scandals which the Chinese press has publicised this year to combat graft.

The newspaper said 21 officials had been involved, but 11 had been disciplined without police arrest.

"We regret to notice that among the 21 are veteran cadres who joined the Communist Party more than 30 years ago ... and even people held up last year as municipal labour heroes," it said.

Western diplomats said the exposure of such a senior cadre was intended to show that no one could get away with graft, which has mushroomed in the wake of economic reforms.

The People's Daily said a nationwide probe into more than 43,000 firms and offices uncovered cases of fraud totalling 3.9 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) in the first nine months this year.

**GOREN BRIDGE**

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SEARIF  
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**HI-JACKED!**

Both vulnerable, North deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ 10 9 4 3 2  
♥ A J 5 3  
♦ A 10 4  
♣ J

**WEST**  
♠ J 6  
♥ Void  
♦ K 2  
♣ A 10 9 8 6 5 4 3 2

**EAST**  
♠ Q 7  
♥ 10 8 6 2  
♦ Q 8 7 5 3  
♣ 7

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 8 5  
♥ K Q 9 7 4  
♦ J 9 6  
♣ K

The bidding:  
North East South West  
Pass Pass 1 ♣ 3 ♣  
5 ♣ Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: Six of ♣.

We have often remarked that deception, to be successful, doesn't have to be very dramatic. To prove our point, look at this hand from the Spring North American Championships, held in Montreal.

The auction was brief in terms of the number of bids, but the level was quickly in the stratosphere. South opened a perfectly normal one heart and West bid what he hoped he could make—five clubs. North raised to five hearts with some trepidation, because he felt his side might be missing a slam.

**TO ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS AND AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS**

The Ministry of Tourism wishes to purchase original colour photo slides depicting all archaeological and tourist sites of Jordan.

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